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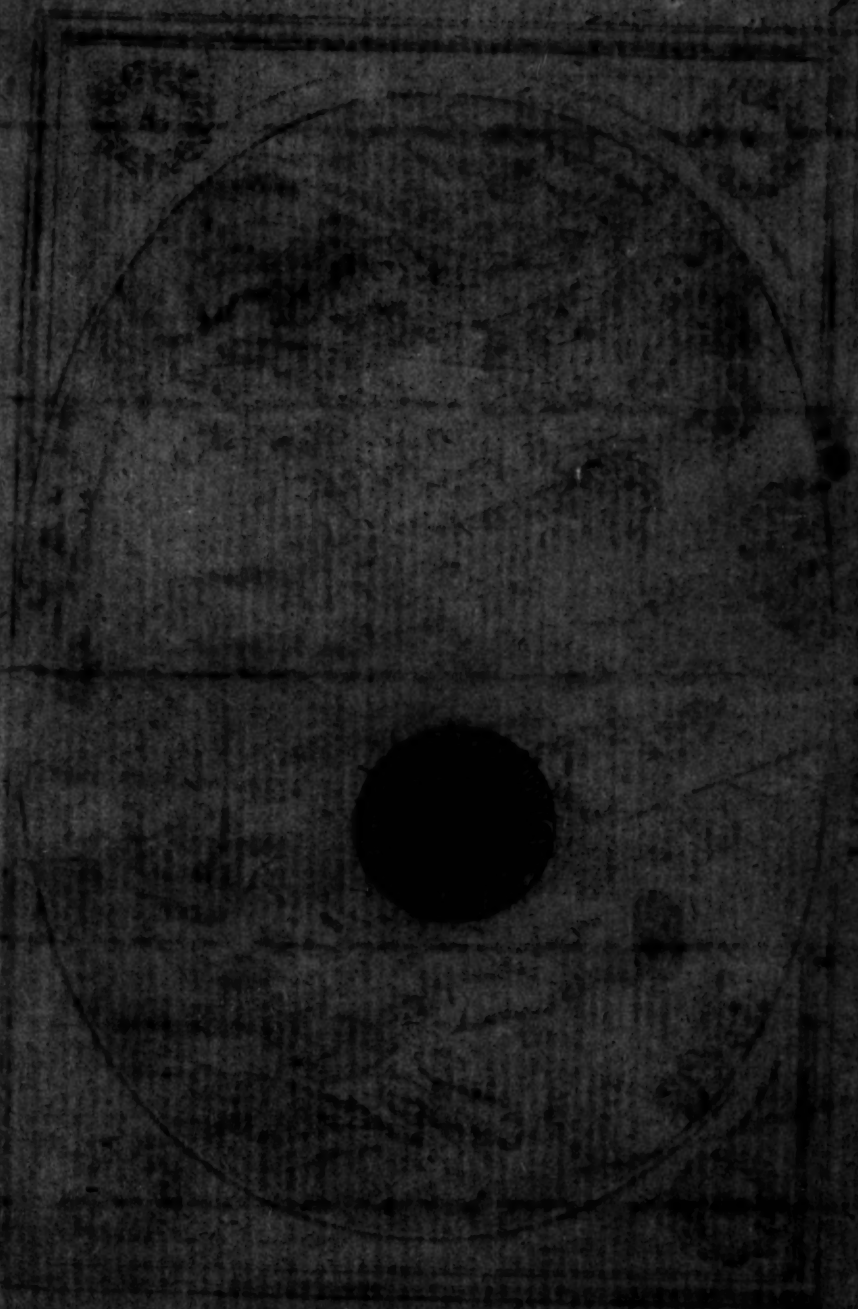

FRONTISPIECE

LONDON - IV. [Appendix. - Miscellaneous.]

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THE

TRICKS

OF

LONDON

LAID OPEN:

Being a true CAUTION

TO BOTH SEXES

IN TOWN AND COUNTRY.

I. A General Reflection on the Town, with a Deſcription of the preſent State of it.

II. A Diſſuaſive againſt Idleneſs, with the Character of a Sot.

III. The Character of a Beau and a Gameſter.

IV. The Humours, Cuſtoms, and Tricks of the Playhouſe, are diſcovered and expoſed.

V. The Tricks of Cockers, Cock Matches, and the Cheats of Horſe-races and Foot Matches are diſcovered.

VI. The Villainy of Money droppers is expoſed, and the roguiſh Methods they take to impoſe on Countrymen.

VII. The Tricks of Bawds and Whores are detected, with a Deſcription of a Bawdy Houſe, and the Art of Trapping.

VIII. The Character of a Bully, Setter, and Spunger.

IX. Particular Obſervations and Reflections upon ſeveral diſtinct Occurrences of the Town, &c. &c.

The Seventh Edition, with conſiderable Improvements.

LONDON:

Printed by T. SABINE, No. 81, SHOE LANE.

(Price SIX-PENCE.)

LAID OPEN:

A CAUTION

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I. A General Relation of the Town, with a Description of the Persons, and Characters of the Inhabitants.

II. The Characters of Beau and a Coxcomb.

III. The Characters of [illegible] Coquet, and the Character of a Prude.

IV. The Humours, Customs, and Tricks of [illegible] Sots, and Debauchees, are discovered.

V. The Arts of Cheats, Bullies, Sharpers, and Pickpockets, are detected, and the Methods they use to impose on Company.

VI. The Villany of Money-droppers is exposed, and the regular Methods they use to impose on Country-men.

VII. The Tricks of Bawds and Whores are detected, and a Description of a Bawd-house, and the Entertainment.

VIII. The Humours, Customs, and Tricks of [illegible] Character of a Gamester, Sharper, and Spunging-house.

IX. The Arts of Cheats, Bullies, Sharpers, and Pickpockets, are discovered.

X. Particular Observations on Quacks, Mirrors, and Mountebanks upon several diverting Occurrences of the Town, &c. &c.

LONDON:

Printed by T. SABINE, No. 81, Bow Lane.

THE TRICKS OF LONDON LAID OPEN.

I intend to expose the town to you, as our fathers of old were wont to do to their children, to wean them betimes from the vicious inclination to wine and debauchery. I intend to lead you from one seat of action to another, and give you a short view of most of the dangerous tricks and villainies which you will consequently be exposed to when you come to it.

As to the town itself, "'Tis a kind of large forest of "wild beasts, where most of us range about at a venture "and are equally savage, and mutually destructive one "of another." I wish it were possible to give you a distant view of the state and manner of it. I am confident the spectacle (if you were not really bewitched) would be so horridly odious and ungrateful, that you'd have small lust to come at it, notwithstanding the fury of your present inclination.

The first thing that you'd be encountered with, would be the dismal prospect of universal povery, and crowds of miserable people, either racked with their own guilt or folly, or groaning under the intolerable want of bread,

or mad, or infatuated by oppreſſion, or deſperate by a too quick ſenſe of a continued infelicity: here you'd ſee us all generally buſied to trepan, undermine and deceive one another, which we are forced to do to make good our miſtaken pretence to a life of ſenſuality and delight.

If you caſt your eye upon the court, you will ſee but few there but flatterers and hypocrites, except it be ſome nauſious creatures that are only fixed there for ſhew, and indeed are fit for nothing elſe.

If you look into Weſtminſter Hall, among the lawyers, there'll you'll be entertained with little elſe but hideous complaints for want of money and buſineſs, and find them all ſo ſour and ill natured, that you can hardly ſpeak to any of them without endangering your noſe. Look among the religious pretenders, and you will ſee them in the very ſame condition, all furiouſly hating, and uncharitably cenſuring one another, ſnapping, ſnarling, grinning, and biting, and almoſt every party wiſhing all the reſt damned, but juſt thoſe few that agree with them in their own opinion and judgment

Obſerve the ſhops, and you'll ſee an univerſal diſcontent and melancholy hanging in the faces of their reſpective owners. You would ſee all theſe things, and many other unpleaſant and tormenting objects. And what ſenſible man then would not be mightily rejoiced and ſatisfied that his better fortune hath removed him from hence, out of the noiſe and participation of all theſe evils and calamities and be conſtantly alarmed, affraid and diſturbed, leſt ſome croſs and malicious accident ſhould ſerve him hither? Conſider, I beſeech you, what are the advantages and goods of this town, that can give you any juſt reaſon to be ſo fond of it; or what evils in the country that can render it ſo odious and obnoxious to you, and engage you to forſake it in ſuch a hurry.

Firſt then, to tell you my thoughts, in ſhort, I'm afraid your chief argument for leaving the country will be this, viz: That you have too much time upon your hands, and to be rid of it, you will venture to hazard yourſelf, your eſtate, health, liberty, and retirement, and all for company; nay, what is worſe, take in the aſſiſtance of toilſome and laborious vice, and call it by the falſe name of pleaſure, rather than be idle. And what? Could

Could the country afford you no instruments for relief in this case? Had you no books to divert you, nor no opportunities to come at any? I am confident Lincolnshire did not use to be so barren; I have often heard your good old father say, that you never wanted innocent diversions there, and that a country gentleman might make his passage through human life in that country, with as much ease and satisfaction as in any part of the world beside; but the scene is altered now, it seems your father was a dull, old phlegmatic fellow, and only hugged himself in a little old-fashioned country happiness, a little good, honest, downright house-keeping, &c. all which in these later days, are grown the scorn and aversion of our new-fashioned gentry.

A gentleman here is in the main a creature that is composed of nothing but pleasure and idleness, and thinks he hath little else to do in the town but to make his pastime in it. I will give you a short account how some of our bred city gentlemen manage their time, and then leave you to make your own inference.

In this town we have three distinct sorts of idle companions, which may be properly differenced by the respective titles of Sots, Beaus, and Gamesters; and perhaps it may not be much amiss if I trouble you with a short character of each of them, as far as it is consistent with my present design. At worst, it will either divert or caution you; and if it does but one of them, I am satisfied.

THE TRUE CHARACTER OF A SOT.

A Sot is a kind of sluggish, filthy animal, that by a continued course of lewdness and debauchery, has entirely razed out the goodly impression Nature at first made upon him; and is degenerated in the strictest sense from a man to a beast. He is distinguishable from the rest

of his ſpecies, both by his ſmell, garb, ſhape, and aſpect: you may diſcern him by his dirty hands and face, his foul linen, ſore eyes, ſtinking breath, and twenty other badges of his character, which he conſtantly carries about him. His method of living is generally thus—

About twelve or one he commonly riſes, and when he has carelesly hung on his equipage, he ſteers his courſe directly for the tavern; and to quench the flames of his laſt night's debauchery, calls firſt for a cooler of white-wine and ale mixed together, and when he has taken a ſwinge or two of that, he ſends for the maſter of the houſe—Faith, ſays he (with a kind of vanity) I was damnable drunk laſt night, and my ſtomach is a little uneaſy this morning; I think we had beſt try what a quart of hock for a wet will do. By the time this is drank, and perhaps another, and a pipe or two of tobacco ſmoked into the bargain, in comes the dinner. If he can eat a bit, but it is ten to one whether he can or not; however, he can drink as well as the beſt of them, and therefore ſits down with them for company. Here the half flaſk muſt be called for in courſe, and the good miſtreſs of the houſe's health began in a bumper, with ſo many other endearing healths, that it is ten to one but he is more than half ſeas over before the cloth is laid.

If he can get any body to bear him company, here he fixes, till he is ſo thoroughly drunk that a poſſe of drawers and porters are forced to be called in to lug him into a chair, or coach, to carry him out of harm's way to his own lodgings. But if he can prevail with nobody to do him the favour to ſtay here, and be drunk with him, then in a ſort of hazy condition he blunders to the play houſe, (the general place of rendezvous) where he ſleeps, farts, and ſtinks, for an hour or two, and ſo returns perhaps to his former vomit. The pit know him well, and keep as far out of his reach as they can, eſpecially the beaus; for if he chance to fall foul of one of them, he certainly ruins him for that voyage, or at leaſt forces him, upon the inconveniency, to ſteer to the next barber's ſhop, to new rig and mundify. Perhaps ſome antiquated whore, that for company take can drink and ſmoke a pipe, and be drunk as well as he, for want of a better adventure, hawls him to her, and lays him abroad; and if ſhe can

but

but once decoy him to a tavern, she plies him so very warmly, that she soon makes him quite drunk, then dexterously picks his pocket, and so leaves him.

And this is the way a great many of these sort of gentry pass away their lives, till an habitual course of sottishness and debauchery hath either made them insensible, or thrown them into a fever, or some other dangerous distemper, which carries them off entirely; or at least brings the gout, stone, gravel, stranguary, or some such thing upon them, by which the whole remainder of their lives is rendered bitter and uncomfortable.

But, Sir, I remember the caution you gave me in your last, i. e. to make my letters as short as I could; and so I'll give the character of the other two idle companions in my next.

CHARACTERS OF A BEAU AND GAMESTER,

TOGETHER WITH

Some short Reflections upon Idleness in general.

The CHARACTER of a BEAU.

A BEAU is a creature of a nature so different and disagreeable to the former, that you'd hardly take him to be of the same species, and his time cut out to quite contrary uses; some of it is spent in the idle pursuit of modes and fashions, in contriving his cloaths, and putting them on to the most advantage: another part of his time is consumed in admiring himself, or projecting to be admired by others, and the rest in hearing of flatteries, reflecting and ruminating upon them. The first three

hours of every day are constantly dedicated to the setting his wig and cravat, rolling his stockings, reddening his lips, and painting his nauseous phiz, and the like.

When he thinks he has managed himself in the best order as may be, perhaps he strolls majestically to the coffee house, where he teazes somebody with an hour's impertinence, drinks his dish of tea, and is laughed at, and then forsooth, he must have a chair called, to carry him to a lady (it may be) who does him only the honour, after all, to let him dine with her dogs and her Abigail; or perhaps, if she be in a very good humour, and wants a little sport, will admit him to the favour to play a game at cards with her, 'til she has won his money, and made him the common buffoon to the company, then she dismisses him with a jest. From hence, perhaps, he marches to another, and tells her a thousand stories——how kind my lady ——— was to him, what a plentiful dinner they had, and how earnestly she pressed him to stay longer with her: in short, 'tis ten to one but his company grows ungrateful there too. Ladies don't often love such fools, that are fit for nothing else but to be stuck up in a garden to fright the birds from the fruit; and so to be rid of him, one of the maids has the sign given her to take him aside, and tell him that her mistress expect visitors, and his company won't be convenient.

From hence, it may be, he walks to the play house, where his chief business is to observe the ladies in the boxes, and to expose himself to them. When the play is done, he places himself at one of the doors of the house, and stands ready to offer his hand to help them severally into their coaches; if there be ever a one that will take him home with her, well and good; if not, by the help of a link, he picks his way to the Groom Porters, where he lolls about for another hour or two, and then the business of the day is done with him. If there be any broken intervals, which cannot be so well devoted to these set and solemn fopperies, those are commonly gleaned up by some other insignificant trifles; so that the main of his whole life is nothing else but one continued scene of folly and impertinence.

THE CHARACTER OF A GAMESTER.

A Gameſter is a ſort of compoſition of both theſe together, half Sot, half beaſt; and in his nature and conſtitution, worſe than either of them. Indeed, I want a name for him; and if he be a profeſſed gameſter, and has taken up the trade purely for a livelihood, he's no more fit to be admitted into the ſociety of country gentlemen, than a mad dog is to be turned looſe into a kennel of beagles; where if he ſets his venomous teeth into any of them, they conſequently run mad too, and ſo are fit for nothing but to be wormed or hanged, to prevent the infection of the reſt of the company. Theſe, forſooth, range the town in the garb and under the characters of gentlemen; and indeed ſome of them are originally ſo, but then in their practices they are not only a reproach to their family, but to their title too. 'Tis a worthy employment for a gentleman—is it not? To make it his buſineſs to find out young heirs of much wealth, and little prudence, and to rook them at play, or entangle them into ſurytiſhip, or perhaps betray them into ſome mean and unequal matches.

This is their common practice; and when they have hit of ſuch a one, they ſeize upon him with as much eagerneſs, and obſerve him with the ſame joy, as a vulture does the fall of a carcaſs. But I ſhall have other opportunities to ſpeak of them in their proper places, and therefore I'll wave them now. As to the gentlemen who uſe gaming as their ordinary method to ſquander away their time, their uſual cuſtom is this—to ſpend their morning at the Tennis Court, their afternoon at the Bowling Green, their evening at the Play houſe; from thence to their miſtreſs; from her to the Groom Porter's; from the Groom Porter's to the Tavern; and from thence

perhaps,

perhaps (if they don't commit some outrages, that obliges the watch to secure them from further mischief) about four or five in the morning they get drunk to bed.

In short, Sir, a Gamester is a composition of almost all the vices of the town jumbled together: his ordinary dialect is swearing and cursing, and his occupation solely depends upon lying, falsehood, and perjury. His life is a perfect lottery and hazard table; to-day he's an Esquire and so proud and insolent nobody can speak to him; to-morrow he's a beggar, and as meek as a lamb, and but lend him a guinea to set him up, you may say or do what you will to him. To have done with him——his time is so equally divided between vice, folly, and impertinence, and commonly so taken up and foretalled by his designs and projects, and which way to manage his cheats and adventures; or, at least, he is so haraſſed and fatigued with his losses and disappointments, that his whole thoughts, and that together, are lost in the hurry. And thus he lives an absolute slave, and dies a perfect wretch.

You see, Sir, how these sort of sparks apply their time; and truly, most of your country gentlemen, that comes to London, purely to spend their money to see fashions, fall under one of these denominations. Well, what can make men, gentlemen especially, (that are distinguished by several extraordinary advantages from the rest of their kind) suffer themselves to be imposed upon by these kind of follies, I know not: idleness is certainly the grand cause; and, according to that common principle of nature, they must be doing mischief when they can find no other employ. But then, has virtue lost her prerogative? Is she grown in this last age so old and deformed, that she has quite lost all her charms and endearments? No, no, my friend, she is still the same, as charming and as beautiful as ever——The world is grown worse, 'tis true, but virtue never changes. If you would but actuate your own reason, and disenchant yourself from this unlucky resolution, you'd soon find she'd propose a method to you, both to delight and direct you in your country life, a thousand times beyond any thing in the most gustful sensualities the city can pretend to.

To

To ſum up all, there is a kind of juſtice that obliges a gentleman to ſtay in the country and live upon his eſtate; this he ſhould do, not only for the ſake of charity and hoſpitality, but likewiſe upon the account of his poor neighbours and tenants, to whoſe ſweat and labour a great part of the profits and advantages of his land is owing. They, I'm ſure, ſhould be encouraged, ſupported, and aſſiſted——But, how can tha be, when the whole profits muſt be ſent up to ſupport the grandeur, equipage, and extravagance of a lewd town? And 'tis ſome odds, too, whether the annual rents will do the buſineſs or no: it is very often ſeen that ſuch kind of luxuries and inconſiderate methods of living, not only deſtroy the crop, but the ſoil likewiſe; prey upon the very heart and vitals of an eſtate; and many have ſtaid ſo long in town, until they have had nothing left to retire into the country.

There's much to be ſaid to prove this town to be the forge of vanity, a nurſery of vice, a ſnare to the young, a curſe to the old, and a perpetual ſpring of new temptations. But I've ſaid enough already, to let you ſee my ſentiments of the matter. My next buſineſs ſhall be to diſcover and expoſe to you ſeveral of the moſt practic and common humours and tricks of it; ſome of which you'll certainly be encountered with, almoſt upon your firſt arrival.

THE

Humours and Tricks of the Playhouſe are expoſed.

HAVING finiſhed the firſt part of my deſign, and, as I ſaid expoſed the town to you, as our fathers were wont to do to their children, I come now to the ſecond thing: firſt, to lay before you ſome of the humours, tricks, and cheats of it, which as a young gentleman

tleman and a ſtranger, you are in moſt danger of; and ſecondly, to give you ſome general directions and advice, how you may beſt guard yourſelf againſt them. And firſt, Sir, I will wait upon you to the playhouſe, (for thither I'm confident your inclinations, or curioſity, or both together, will ſoon lead you) and bear you company according to the beſt of my judgment, through the different accidents and adventures which, as a ſtranger, you may ſoon expect to be encountered with as ſoon as you come there. In our play-houſes at London, beſides an upper gallery for footmen, coachmen, mendicants, &c. we have three other different and diſtinct claſſes; the firſt is called the boxes, where there is one peculiar to the King and Royal Family, and the reſt for the perſons of quality, and for the ladies and gentlemen of the higheſt rank, unleſs ſome fools that have more money than wit, or, perhaps, more impudence than both, crowd in among them.

The ſecond is called the pit, where ſit the wits, judges, and cenſurers, or, rather, or rather the cenſurers, without either wit or judgment. Theſe are the bully judges, who damn and ſink the play at a venture. It is no matter whether it be good or bad, but 'tis a play, and they are the judges, and ſo it muſt be damned, curſed and cenſured in courſe. In common with theſe ſit the Eſquires, Sharpers, Beaus, Bullies, and Wh——s, and here and there an extravagant male and female Cit. The third is diſtinguiſhed by the title of the Middle Gallery, where the Citizens wives and daughters, together with the journeymen, apprentices, ſerving-men, and Abigail, commonly take their places; and now and then ſome deſponding miſtreſſes and ſuperanuated poets: into one of theſe you muſt go; and, conſidering your circumſtances, I think the pit is the moſt proper.

Well, when you come there, the eyes of every body are preſently upon you, eſpecially the whores and ſharpers, who immediately give out the word, to try if any body knows you, and if they find you are a ſtranger, then a lady in a maſk, alias whore, which (as they expreſs it) is a good tongue pad, is forthwith detached to go and ſound you; and in the mean time a cabal of bullies and ſharpers are conſulting which way you muſt be mana-

managed, and passing their judgment upon you. The lady comes up to you with a kind of formal impudence, and fixes herself as near to you as she can, and then begins some loose and impertinent prate, to draw you into discourse with her.

If she finds you a man fit for their turn, and a true Esquire, with some sort of subtle and insinuating civility, she leaves you a little, to go and make her report to her friends and allies, in another part of the pit, who are earnestly waiting to know the success of her negociation. Here some proper measures are soon resolved upon, and she is dispatched to you again with new instructions, and will be sure to stick to you until the end of the play; and in all the interludes be constantly chattering to you, to screw herself as far as possible into your acquaintance and familiarity.

When the play is over, she certainly marches out with you, and, by the way, perhaps, does you the favour to let you have a glimpse of her painted face, &c. If she sees you take no notice of her, and seem insensible of her design, she comes to a close parley with you, and must needs know which way you go; be it which way it will, her way is the very same; and so, to avoid the trouble of calling another coach, if you'll set her down, she will give you a cast some other night. 'Tis ten to one but this is agreed to.——And now she has got you by herself, she begins to cajole and flatter you; to commend some particular part; your shape, mien, carriage, good-nature, and civility: but, above all, the kindness of taking her into your coach; in consideration of which, if you'll do her the favour to go home with her to her lodging, she'll exert her best endeavours to make you ample amends.

When you come thither, the first part of the entertainment is, with her own character and circumstances, which she commonly makes use of for an introduction of enquiry into yours. When she has fully equipped herself with your whole state and condition, if she finds you worth her trouble, why then she's so much captivated with your genteel deportment, free disposition, your even temper, and conversation, that she must beg leave to insist on your company to-morrow to dine with her. And

thus

thus the train is laid that will effectually blow you up and ruin you inevitably, if you give her a second opportunity of touching it with the fatal match

You are hardly gone out of the room when in comes the reſt of the confederacy, a ſet of bullies, ſharpers, and whores; and then the tables are ſoon turned, and you, that were but the laſt moment one of the moſt accompliſhed perſons in the univerſe, are now made the grand laughing-ſtock for the night. Your dreſs muſt be anatomized; your mien and dialect buffooned and ridiculed: in ſhort, they conclude you fit for nothing but a cully, and that they reſolve, by ſome means or other, to make of you.

But to return again to the Playhouſe. If they find their whore can do no good with you, they then try another expedient. An ingenious gentleman, that is born weſtward of England, makes up to you; and he, forſooth, muſt know what countryman you are, or what is a clock by your watch; or what part of the town you lodge in, or where you ſup? Theſe ſort of ſparks are commonly well ſtocked, I mean with confidence and impertinence, and therefore don't ſtand much upon forms and ceremonies with you; but, by his ſoul, if you'll go along with him to a tavern, and drink the health of an honeſt gentleman of your country, which, perhaps, he either knows, or has heard his name, he will take you to a glaſs of the beſt wine in London. His buſineſs with you is of the ſame nature with the former. If he can wheedle you thither, firſt to make you drunk, then to draw you into gaming, and then by the help of his falſe dice, ill got of hand, and other tricks, (the only arts that he is maſter of) he ſoon gets your ready money, and takes your notes for more; by which means he links you ſo faſt, that, without the greateſt caution, you are inſenſibly ruined before you can diſintangle yourſelf.

But if this don't paſs upon you, neither, why then comes a third; and his buſineſs is to draw you into a quarrel, or, at leaſt, to try whether you will fight upon occaſion, and if you won't, they naturally conclude that a coward and a cully are convertible terms, and ſo will be conſtantly teazing you, until they have gained their point. His way of proceeding with you, is either to

tread

tread upon your toes, cough in your face, ruffle, crowd, or discompose you. But, after all, if he finds you resent this behaviour, and grows rough upon the matter, he instantly flies to his grand reserve, begs your pardon, and sneaks off.

When neither of these can do your business, then comes up a forlorn hope, a worthy old matron, deeply skilled in the famous science of procuration, and accosts you, first with a Scripture phrase or two, perhaps; or if she finds that don't so well agree with your palate, for some of you country gentlemen are not over fond of Scripture) she changes her discourse into bawdy, and so, with a little of one and the other, and a chuck under the chin into the bargain, she whispers you in the ear, and tells you in plain terms, she perceives you are a young country gentleman, and if you have a mind for a taste of the town, she lives in Bow Street, Covent Garden; and if you'll come and sup with her. she can shew you three or four couple of the choicest strumpets (ladies she calls them) about the town.

You see, Sir, how naturally these beasts of prey hunt a country squire; and if they can but once blow him a little, that he becomes obnoxious to the herd, they seldom lose the scent till they have set him up (as you phrase it) and brought him to a bay, and then they soon pull him down and mangle him as they will.

If you can pass these pikes, and come safe off from the Whore, the Sharper, the Bully, and the Bawd, which I hope you will do by the assistance of the cautions I have just given you, then you'll be a little at liberty to look about you, and make your observations. The stage, I must own, (till so many immoral practices and irregularities broke in upon it) was originally of admirable use and design.——'Twas a kind of looking-glass to the nation, where a man of sense might form as true a judgment of the humours and inclinations of the better sort of the kingdom, as in any part of the town besides.——How it came to lose so much of its beauty and ornament in these latter years, is no great matter to our purpose.

If you will come here now, you muſt take it as men do their wives, for better or worſe. 'Tis already in a ſtate of declenſion; and, for my part, I am not ſo much a friend either to the mob or fanaticks, to give my vote for its utter extirpation. To go on then, if it be a new play, the houſe is commonly very full, eſpecially if the author be a new one too; upon ſuch occaſions, every body that has an inclination for the play-houſe, is willing to gratify his deſire with ſuch a novelty.

Though, indeed, I muſt confeſs, when I look into the plays that were wrote formerly, and compare them with the generality of thoſe which have been written here of late, in my poor judgment, the plots and characters, and what is more ſtrange, the ſtile too, is grown ſo profoundly dull and flat, that a man muſt have a very good appetite who can digeſt ſuch intolerable trash without a ſurfeit. Well, let it be what it will, provided it be ſtamped with a new name and a ſtrange title, it certainly raiſes the mob, calls together the Whores and Bawds, the Eſquires, Beaus, Cits, Bullies, &c. who come all crowding in ſhoals, to hear what this wonderous new man can ſay.

The third day, if, by the help of a good prologue and epilogue, good acting, dancing and ſinging, good ſcenes, and the like, the ſickly, half-got brat can be kept alive ſo long, is commonly the grand day; then you may obſerve the general humours of the houſe. In one part of it you'll ſee the judges and wits, with abundance of hangers on and interlopers, cenſuring and miſtaking the ſenſe, if there be any, for nonſenſe. It is ten to one, if there be any part above the reſt, but ſome of theſe pretending coxcombs unluckily pitch upon that for their ſubject to laugh at.—The reaſon of this is very plain; perhaps they may know a little of the Merry Andrew parts, the dull jokes and drolls, which at beſt are but the rubbiſh and lumber of the play; but, for the flights and extaſies, and the ſhining parts of it, thoſe are utterly out of their element; and ſo, conſequently they are forced to damn and cenſure them in courſe, becauſe they don't underſtand them. The poor poet muſt be confounded and mauled; and what is ſtill worſe, if there be ever a fanatick that ſets up for a judge, if there is but a few

a few accidental expreſſions that don't exactly ſquare with his opinion and inclination, the whole play, upon the ſcore of one ſingle character or paragraph, muſt be eſteemed a ſatyr againſt the government, and have an embargo laid upon it; and the poor author be doomed as an enemy to the public, to be taken into cuſtody and whipt, &c. This, within the ſmall compaſs of my own knowledge, has been the fate of ſome of them; and, indeed, I have known one of the beſt tragedies that ever was written, ſtopped upon ſuch a pique.

In another part of the houſe ſit the poet's friends, who are reſolved to carry him off right or wrong; 'tis no matter to them whether the play be well or ill done, they're engaged, either from friendſhip, intereſt, or a natural ſpirit of contradiction, to oppoſe the other faction; and thoſe you'll obſerve ſtraddling upon the ſeats, hallowing, capping, and flouncing, making ſuch an impertinent clatter and noiſe, and uſing ſo many inſolent and indecent actions, that I adviſe you as a friend to keep as far from them as poſſible.

But, what is worſe ſtill, perhaps, in the very nick of all, comes in a drunken Lord, with a party of low country warriors; or, what is more common, a country eſquire, that has lately taken up the noble profeſſion of ſcowering and revelling; and, to ſhew their parts and their courage, raiſe a quarrel, and put the whole houſe in confuſion; then you'll ſee fine work indeed: the whores tumbling over the ſeats, and the Eſquires and Beaus tumbling after in a horrible fright and diſorder; the whole pit's in arms in a moment, and every man's ſword drawn to defend himſelf; ſo that, if the uproar be not inſtantly ſuppreſſed, it is great odds but there is ſome body murdered.

Theſe inſurrections, I confeſs, do not often happen, and it is well they do not, for if they did they might even play by themſelves; for, who but a madman would run the riſk of being ſtabbed, or trodden to death, to gratify himſelf with an empty, inſignificant curioſity? And, indeed, moſt of our novel farces have little elſe but barely that to recommend them.

But, Sir, if after all, you will ſtill go to the play-houſe, (which I hope will be very ſeldom, eſpecially when you have any buſineſs of moment to divert or call you off otherways) why then if you'll take a few ſhort inſtructions along with you, I'm confident, if they do you no good they can do no harm; at worſt, I preſume, you'll eſteem them a well intended impertinence, and that's the moſt pardonable error of any thing of that kind.

Well then, upon the former proviſo, that you have a few leiſure hours that are entirely upon your hands, and are reſolved to make uſe of the play to fill up thoſe idle intervals, the beſt way is to fix yourſelf in ſome advantageous part of the pit, where with the leaſt diſturbance and interruption, you may not only obſerve the action and behaviour of the actors, but likewiſe hear every individual part diſtinctly, by which means you may be able to underſtand the plot and deſign of the play, and to judge of the ſeveral characters, and what they drive at; for unleſs you do this, the beſt play that ever was written can ſeem nothing elſe but an empty din of words, and a jumble of things ſtuck together without any manner of order. 'Tis true, the greateſt part of thoſe that frequent the playhouſe, come thither upon a quite different errand, perhaps to ſee the paſſionate love, or hate of ſome great queen, or lady repreſented; the deſtruction of ſome prince or hero; or the rape of a virgin; or, what is more uſual, to hear the ſinging and ſee the dancing; to obſerve ſome of the little drolling humours and ſcenes, and fine dreſſes of the players: but I hope you would not herd among ſuch a mob. If this be all you propoſe to yourſelf from the ſtage, even ſave your money, and ſtep to Moorfields, where a Mountebank and his Andrew will divert you as well. No, no, Sir, the true deſign of the ſtage is utterly foreign to this: i. e. to expoſe and detect rebellion and faction, and vice in general, and to exalt and commend loyalty, honour and virtue; and truly, there is ſcarcely a play (if you take it right) that is acted at either of the houſes in London, but makes ſome kind of advance towards one of theſe ends. It is true, that players like the money of a fool as well as they do of the man of ſenſe, and in ſome meaſure are

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as willing to please him with their trifles and baubles, as divert the other with their encomiums and satyrs; tho', by the way, I must tell them they had best take care that by their farces and drolls, and their Jack-pudding tricks, they do not at last pull their houses upon their own heads; but it seems they are above advice, and so I won't go out of my road to trouble my head about them. It is well there are more fools than men of sense that are their customers; if there were not, for all their huffings, their sh res might be soon drawn into a narrow compass.—Well, Sir, to have done with them and the subject too, if you please to observe what I have told you, with this one thing more, i. e. never to embark yourself, upon any pretence or account whatsoever, in any of the quarrels, humours, intrigues, or factions of the stage, you may then pass away an hour or two at the play-house, once in a month, but no oftener, without any great matter of hazard, and with some kind of advantage.

THE

TRICKS OF THE COCK-PITS,

AND THE

Cheats of Horse Races and Foot-Matches are exposed.

HAVING discovered so many of the cheats and tricks of the town to you already, you may now think it high time to wind upon my account. I can assure you I have no vanity in reporting these matters; they are as odious and unpleasant for me to write as they can be for you to read. But still, Sir, I remember my

promiſe: I engaged to ſhew a little of moſt of the follies and villainies of the town, which as a gentleman and a ſtranger, you are moſt in danger of being trapanned, and impoſed upon by, when you come into it. To proceed then to the reſt, for once I'll take you to a cock-match; and if you love that diverſion, I'll ſhew you a battle or two, in order to prove how much our ſparks in London manage their affairs beyond a gentleman in the country.

Cock-fighting is an ancient, barbarous ſort of diverſion, that for ſome years has been of high repute, even among the Nobility and chief of the Gentry in England: it is now, indeed, in a ſtate of declination. Gentlemen, perceiving the conſtant charge, folly, and inconvenience that depended upon it, have in a great meaſure wiſely laid it down.

And the ſharpers, rooks, and ſcoundrels, together with ſome few fools, have taken it up, or elſe the cruel ſport, (for that's the beſt title I can give it, and I think the beſt it deſerves) had been happily worn out and loſt, and there had been an end of it. For my part, I cannot conceive where the great diverſion of cock fighting lies; the bear-garden and cock-pit are both alike; and truly, in my judgment, are both inhuman and unnatural, neither gives but little ſatisfaction. But this is nothing to the purpoſe: it paſſes under the notion of a harmleſs recreation among the reſt, the rooks and ſharpers get money by it, and therefore we'll go and ſee how their point is managed.

Their firſt buſineſs is to inſinuate themſelves, with bribes, into an acquaintance with the feeders, and to learn each cock's particular marks, breed, manner of fighting, &c. When they are thoroughly equipped with theſe, and each other intelligence that can give them the leaſt advantage in point of judgment, they make their bets, but ſtill their eyes are fixed upon the cock for the better obſervation of each wound and turn of the battle; and moſt of the old Cockers are ſo extreme ſharp and quick ſighted, in thoſe caſes, that for the moſt part they can diſcover the niceſt advantage, and therefore either take or lay the odds to bring themſelves off. So far it is fair enough; every man is to be commended for

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making the moſt of his buſineſs; and, indeed, it is impoſſible for them to uſe their talents in a fair match further than this comes to, unleſs it be to wrangle off their bets when loſt, and bring ſome of their gang to give falſe judgment, which is too common amongſt them.

All this is but little to their buſineſs; for if there was nothing elſe in it but the advantage in point of judgement, they muſt ſoon be forced to find ſome new adventure, or prepare to fight battles of a different nature. Their buſineſs for the moſt part cothes on when the grand match is over, (unleſs the whole be one of their making) then, perhaps, there is a bye-match or two to divert the company at parting, in order to their intereſt.

Here is ſet down one of the ſharpeſt narrow heeled cocks belonging to thm, againſt one they well know to be a perfect ſlug; and 'tis ten to one too, to make all things ſure, but they crack his beak, or thruſt a pin into the roof of his mouth, or blunt the point of his gaffles, or cramp him with a hair about his thigh; for in ſuch caſes all things muſt be made ſecure on their ſide: but then the force of their deſigns chiefly depends on the managing point, againſt their cock comes to be ſet down; in order to which, one of the more reputable ſort of ſharpers, offers large bets upon the cock that is to loſe, and withal ſeveral ſham wagers are laid among themſelves. This, ſays he, is a brother to the pile that killed Squire G———'s hen, and my Lord C———'s duck-wing, that won the famous battle at New Market; and perhaps be a ſightly cock, and good in nature too.

By theſe, and ſuch like ſtratagems, 'tis odds but there are ſeveral ſnapped. To colour the matter, when the buſineſs is over, they pretend he received a wound in the body, in the ſparring blows; and if he had not been accidentally diſabled, he would without doubt have won the battle, and will fight one of the ſame brood with any cock in England, for an hundred pounds.

I would not wiſh, Sir, to be too troubleſome with this kind of ſtuff, but leave you to judge from this ſhort draught what theſe gentlemen would be at. Their ſole buſineſs is flat ſharping and rooking; and if you'll ven-

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ture in amongſt them. and hazard ſome caſh, depend upon it, if a ſtranger, they'll have ſome device, either fair or foul, to cheat before you part with them.

After all theſe maxims laid down, I cannot conceive what ſhould induce a gentleman to hazard himſelf and reputation amoeg ſuch a gang of vaiets! Where can the diverſion or felicity be, to ſee a kennel of deep-mouthed ruffians (ſtanding round a pair of fooliſh creatures) hallowing, curſing, and ſwearing, whilſt they mangle one another to death? This is a very unaccountable method of diſpoſing of yourſelf, indeed! Well, Sir, I will not trouble you more about it; you ſee how matters ſtand, and as there is no abſolute reaſon for plunging into ſuch manifeſt inconveniences, even take it for your pains, and ſet down with the loſs.

And next for horſe-racing. Why, that's in the main, a cheat as bad, if not worſe than the former, for many an honeſt gentlemen has been bubbled out of his whole eſtate. As to the great matches between Noblemen and Gentlemen, and the plate matches, &c. that's all country buſineſs, and don't fall within the compaſs of my deſign; and I am glad it does not, for if it did, I ſhould be apt to mention ſomething that would not perhaps have agreed ſo well with their reſpective characters.

However, if you are for a courſe, and will be betting with them, take this among the reſt, that unleſs you have a true knowledge of the horſe and rider, more eſpecially the deſign of the owner, you may as well be taken in by a Jockey, Lord, or Eſquire, as by an hoſtler, or horſe-courſes: and what is worſe, muſt not complain neither; if you do, you affront them, and then wars will enſue.

In ſhort, I think you have no great buſineſs to go among them. But ſince we are upon the ramble, we'll make a ſhort trip to Banſtead Downs, or Hackney-marſh, and ſee what company is there. There, I will warrant, if you are for ſuch ſort of ſport, diverſion need not be wanted. Well, I would not keep you long among them, for they're a dangerous ſet, therefore let it be remembered, there is not a match in twenty run but what is a cheat. The heart of the company is made up of nothing but Jockeys, Horſe courſers, Hoſtlers, and Farriers,

Farriers, with ſome extravagant Citizen, who are learning to gallop and manage their racers, againſt they are forced to mount them upon another occaſion.

A genteel cit, who does not ride above ten or eleven ſtone, after he has wiſely raced himſelf out of his ſhop, makes as accompliſhed an highwayman as the beſt butcher, Coachman, or Hoſtler of them all. But, Sir, I am ſure you won't like this company; beſides you have enough of it in your own country, and therefore we'll leave them to manage their cheats by themſelves, and make the beſt of our way to Hyde Park, to try if we can have any better diverſion at a foot-match.

Foot racing is juſt of the ſame nature with the former, only with this difference, that they rob on foot, the other on horſe back; the one is a highwayman, the other a pad: in ſhort, the general buſineſs of each is to make ſham matches, to draw in ſtrangers, and to impoſe upon them by their villainous cheats and tricks, which are now grown ſo common and well known in town, that there is few but the rabble take notice of them. I could have entertained you with ſome of their ſcandalous ſtratagems and devices, but that I think them both below the ear and pen of a gentleman. They are only fit for the correction of the mob, ſo even let's leave their trial to them, whether a horſe-pond, or houſe of office will work towards their deformation.

THE

Villainies of Guinea Droppers and Sweetners are expoſed.

GUINEA dropping, or ſweetning, is a paltry little cheat, that was recommended to the world about ninety years ago, by a memorable gentleman, that has ſince

ſince had the misfortune to be taken off, I mean hanged for a miſdemeanor upon the highway. However, he left the myſtery behind him, which has ever ſince been managed with pretty good ſucceſs, by ſome of the worthy members of his gang, and is now improved to that high perfection that 'tis become a perfect occupation, and ſeveral remarkable perſons live upon it.

The general places where the maſters of this art rendezvous, is in Moo fields, Covent Garden, and in moſt other public places between Weſtminſter Hall and Temple Bar; eſpecially in the two former: and 'tis ſome odds if a countryman, or a ſtranger paſſes through either of them, but he is attacked by them. The manner of this cheat is thus, as I had it from one of the chief maſters of the faculty, that, it ſeems, has quitted the buſineſs upon ſome diſlike.

Says he, to make us a compleat ſet there muſt be three of us, one to perſonate a merchant, the other a country-gentleman, and the third a tradeſman. When we have bit of our cully, and they have commonly a damnable notion of a perſon for their turn, one of our gang marches directly before him, and another follows cloſe behind, until they are come to a convenient place, where the mouth, (as they are pleaſed to term him) muſt needs obſerve; and then the ſpark that is in the front drops the guinea. Faith, ſays he, (turning about to the ſtranger) I have found a piece of money here, I think 'tis a guinea, and then if he that is in the rear, perceives he is inſenſible of the cheat, up he ſtarts, and claims halves.

After a little ſham ſquabble between the two cheats, ſays the firſt—If any body has a right to a ſnack, it is this gentleman who ſaw me take it up: but to prevent diſputes, Come, ſaith he, 'tis a lucky hit, we'll even go all to the tavern, and ſpend the odd money, and then divide the remainder fairly amongſt us.

The third ſtill continues at a diſtance to obſerve the ſucceſs of their management, and in what tavern they houſe him, which is one where they commonly have a thorough acquaintance and familiarity. When he is fixed, then in comes he in a great hurry, and pretended confuſion, for the loſs of a bill, which he ſays he ſuppoſes he dropped juſt now, in the very room where they

are

are drinking; and to colour the matter, one of the other two conveys a ſham bill under the table, which he immediately takes up, and as a teſtimony of his joy for the recovery of it, will needs call for his pint.

After they have drank two or three pints, and begin to grow a little warm, up ſtarts one of them, and pretends to have diſcovered a pack of cards, which he has before placed in ſome convenient part of the room for his purpoſe. Ha! ſays he, here's a pack of cards.—Come, faith, I'll ſhew you one of the prettieſt tricks that I was taught by a Dutchman the other day, that ever I ſaw in my life. And to poſſeſs their cully of their innocence, &c. they ſhew ſeveral of the common tricks upon the cards.

At laſt, he that is the moſt dexterous, ſtarts the grand trick; which they call preaching the parſon. How the dogs came to call it that name, I know not, unleſs it be, that ſome honeſt clergyman, above the reſt, have been impoſed upon by it. As to the manner of their trick, it is no great matter, my deſign is not to teach you tricks, but how to avoid them. It is a palming ſlip that they have, a ſort of *Deceptio Viſus*, which if you have a mind to ſee, there's enough in town will equip you.

If this cheat takes, then there's no need for the trial of another expedient; but if this don't paſs, then they will with falſe dice, rug and the leather, or ſeveral other projects, that they have at hand upon ſuch occaſions. For, in ſhort, your money will ſoon be in their pockets, or rather than fail, knock you down, and rifle, or pick your pocket.

You have this account of this piece of roguery, in the ſame words, as near as my memory will ſerve me, as I had it from one of the maſters of the gang; and indeed I have been ſomething the longer upon it, that it may ſerve as a general caution againſt embarking with ſtrangers, upon any pretence whatever. For, give me leave to inform you, a conſiderable part of the miſchiefs of London are derived to us upon that account, and will be more and more ſo, conſidering the preſent poſture of men and things.

This

This town degenerates hourly; honesty and virtue are almost swindled to nothing. Roguery, folly, and vice, are ever increasing, and growing more public and insolent; so that notwithstanding coming to London, believe me, it will require the greatest care and wisdom to guard against these notorious villains.

THE

TRICKS

OF

BAWDS AND JILTS

Are exposed, together with some Reflections upon the Art of Trapping.

I Am now entering upon the tricks of Bawds and Jilts, two ranks of degenerated animals, so impious, and quite wicked, and scandalous to their very names, the title of a Bawd and Whore, is sufficient to fright a sober man from their embraces, conversation, and even out of all manner of lustful thoughts and inclinations.

In the first rank I place the Bawd, or Procurer; for though the latter has usurped a name a little more modish and decent than the former, and perhaps will have a little more business among people of fashion, but are both practitioners in the same arts and sciences, and will be sure to agree in the main of their occupation. There is no difference that ever I heard between Sall Browne and Nan Mackenzie, or my Lady D—— either, only in point of price. Sall and my Lady D—— won't equip

you

you under a guinea, perhaps; and Nan will furnish you as well for half-a crown; and rather than lose a customer, for a shilling and a quartern of peppermint.

In short, one helps to a common Miss, and the other to a common Whore; there's no odds but in the name. And these are all works of darkness beside, and then according to the old proverb,—"Joan's as good as my lady."

However, for method sake, I'll take them to pieces, and shew you a few of their tricks and managements, under the characters of a Procurer, Bawd, and Jilt.

First then for the Procurer. Her chief place of rendezvous is at the play-house, that's the change she never fails to be upon, and indeed is the most proper place for her to put off her damaged commodities. She seldom wants chapmen there, especially for her maidenheads, which she pretends is the only part of her merchandize.

You will soon discover whereabouts in the pit she keeps her office, by the concourse of whores and gallants that are perpetually crowding about her, either for advice or assistance. If you should be once so happily vicious to make use of her, she will lay so many snares and temptations to entangle and deceive, that 'tis almost impossible to escape her wicked delusions.

Sometimes she will have the delicatest woman in the world, for a gentleman: at other times, a fine young creature about fourteen, a perfect pattern of innocence and virtue, and a pure virgin; besides, she has one that sings like an angel; another that dances to a miracle; a fourth that has an incomparable shape and mien, and a fifth that's an absolute wit, and the most pleasant companion of her sex.

In short, she has them, or at least pretends she has them of all sorts and prices, from a guinea to five, and from five to twenty; but let me tell you, them to deal with her for any of them would be better luck than our neighbours, that venture their flocks upon such brittle ware, if it don't prove a dear bargain at the making up of the accounts.

A race whore, or a pad ſtrumpet, as they order their buſineſs, will ſtand a gentleman in five times as much money in a twelvemonth's keeping, as a race horſe and a pad together, nay more than a whole ſtable of racers, pads and hunters too. They muſt be kept well cloathed, and finely dreſs'd, and have good meat in their bellies beſide, or elſe they'll turn jades in a ſhort time.

But perhaps you will like the humour of roving better than keeping of theſe cattle for riding. Hire a Hackney whore, as Citizens do their horſes for a journey, and no more.

But then, unleſs you can have them at the ſame price too, eighteen pence a ſide, if you ſhould have occaſion to ride often, and find it a great expence.

Which of theſe methods is the beſt I cannot tell, but I muſt confeſs, I abominate them both; but there's enough in town that can; 'tis true, the citizens are forced to walk it now, o if they do mount (which is very ſeldom) 'tis either upon a caſt hunter, or ſome poor pad that has had the farcy or fiſtula, or ſome ſurfeit, or other fool diſtemper, that has made them fit for the hounds.

However, to acquaint you ſufficiently, you will be informed in their looks, their legs will direct that they have rode hard in former times, and withal give a ſad account, how dangerous ſuch journies are, both in regard to health, wealth, and reputation.

In ſhort, if one of theſe Belle Dame ſorcereſſes ſhould once bewitch you into their net, beſide the fulſomeneſs of the vice itſelf, and the hateful and loathſome qualifications that are incorporated with it, ſhe has ſo many black arts and infernal ſtratagems and devices linked together, to keep you faſt in their clutches, that 'tis almoſt impoſſible for to diſengage from her till ſhe has had her ends, and that will terminate in your ruin.

'Tis unaccountable indeed, when they hear of a beautiful woman, (in the firſt place) what ſtrange contrivances and devices, what projects and deſigns to enſnare, ſhe will get into her company and corrupt her.

The deluding and ruining both men and women is the whole buſineſs of ſeveral agents and factors. A ſort of mer-

mercenary hell-hounds, which they turn out to hunt the town, to catch what game of either sort they can find; and if they chance to make their set upon a country-gentleman, or a stranger, be sure the dog will never forsake the haunt, till his mistress (if he has not been disturbed and drawn at before) finds some means or other to entangle them in her net.

And now for the bawd; she's a sort of viperous creature, that has all the bad properties of the former, with so many additions of her own, that she's a monster, both without parallel and beyond description. She's the very dregs both of a jilt and a procurer; a wretch, that having lost all grace, modesty, or humanity, has sued out her indentures in the Devil's company, and bound herself to deal in other commodities.

These sort of practitioners generally keep a seraglio of their own, with the superscription of Chocolate, Coffee, and Wines over their doors, which are constantly guarded with three or four painted harlots, that are always ready either by surprize or assault, to make you their prisoner.

If they can any ways get you into their case (as they call it) and rather than fail, they will impudently hawl you to; why then in course you must call for your half pint of rasberry, and so one of them begins a beastly health, to let you know what occupation they follow.

Before this is drank, in steps the governess, in a mighty rage, that the gentleman is not shewed into a better room —Come, Sir, says she, and snatches up a candle. So you must either go with her, or stay with those vermin in the dark. Follow me, and I'll light you up myself. When they have got you there, then they conclude you are fixed, and so three or four couple of her choice whores are presently let loose to live at discretion upon us.

If they can by any sort of vicious lewdness entice you into debauchery, the next thing is, which of the ladies you pitch upon, and the terms. Mrs. Frances, she's but just come out of the country, and has not been upon duty these four months, there's but little difference between her and a maidenhead, and she can't be afforded for less than Ten shillings, besides half a crown for her-

ſelf. Mrs Margaret's a good clean woman, and very modeſt and innocent, a pretty harmleſs creature, three half crowns is the price, and ſhe never went under. Mrs. Betty, Mrs. Nancy, and ſweet Mrs. Sukey, are all three ſound and active, but becauſe trading is dead, and money is ſcarce, and you look like a civil gentleman, and becauſe I'd encourage you to come again, you ſhall have one of them for a crown, and that is the loweſt: but, for Moll, Kate, Joan, Margery, Abigail, &c. you know the fare I ſup,oſe, and though I ſay it myſelf, there is never a gentlewoman in the whole town can ſhew a better warehouſe of ſuch ſort of goods than I can, nor afford a better pennyworth.

With this kind of prate the old miſtreſs of iniquity entertains her gueſt, whilſt a kennel of hungry brutes are yelping their fulſome ribaldry, ſwearing, curſing, and blaſpheming, and ravenouſly ſwallowing and devouring every thing they lay their hands upon.

This is rare company, is it not, for a gentleman to run himſelf into? Nay, beſides all theſe, there is a ſtrong party of rogues and bullies below, if you ſhould not comply with their inſolent demands, or ſcruple to pay their extravagant reckoning, ready upon occaſion to hector and inſult you, to ſtrip and murder you.

To have done with them, I cannot ſuſpect that you ſhould ever give up ſo much of your reaſon, as to hazard yourſelf into ſuch a labyrinth of miſchief as this is. No, no, I am confident you never will. A bawdy houſe! why it is the very gate of hell, an inlet to diſgrace, ruin, and contempt, and more to be avoided by far than a jakes or a peſt houſe, and in all reſpects as loathſome as the one, and as contageous as the other.

I come in the next place to the jilt, which is a ſort of creature a little more private and deſigning, but in the main, as lewd and diſſolute, and more dangerous than either of the former.

Theſe forſooth, would be counted virtuous and religious whores; Miſſes they will own themſelves to be, but whore is a term a little too rough to go down with ſuch nice palates, the name of a Miſs reliſhes better with them. Well, let them be Miſſes then; but for all their Miſs ſhip, I paſſionately caution you never to come

near

near any of them, for if you do, you will find they can ri in you as soon as the best procurer or bawd of them all.

These vermin play at high games, nothing will serve some of them less than a settlement of two or three hundred per annum, a coach, fine lodgings, plate, china, and other things suitable to a whore of rank, and upon these considerations she will be faithful to you, or at least she'll promise to be so; but this is only a promise *de fa.o* neither so long as your estate lasts, and you can maintain her in her extravagance and grandeur, but when that fails, so does the obligation too, she has the grand political reasons ready as well as the best statesmen of them all, and commonly makes the best use of it.

She can pray, cant, shed a few crocodile's tears, and rather than fail, sham a fit, as a token of the tenderness she has for you; but then your back's no sooner turned, but she tells her station, you are a nasty, sickly, feeble fellow, and as soon as she has perswaded you out of the settleme t, and the new furniture, she'll first affront you, and then leave you.

If she finds you are a cully, and will be often imposed upon by her, then she has a thousand little wheedling tricks and artifices to decoy you. Sometimes she's breeding forsooth, and then sure you cannot be so barbarous to your own flesh and blood, but you will take some care of the young one; besides, she wants night gowns, and dam'ask for clouts, and a thousand other necessaries for a lying-in woman.

There is my Lord B——'s, and Sir James A——e, and Colonel E——s Miss lay-in, in as much state the other day, as the best lady in the kingdom. Nay, Mr. G——n, that is but an ordinary Citizen, presented his mistress with a new bed, and the furniture of a room that cost him above a hundred and fifty pound; and what has she, I wonder, done, that she should not deserve as much as the best of them? Why sure, she's as handsome and as young, and is as well descended, and has been as well bred as any of them: and do you think that she'll be put off with your nasty, shabby, forty or fifty guineas? No, truly, she thinks, that as cases stand between you and her, you ought to cut off the entail of your estate,

and ſettle a good part of it upon her for life, and then let the child heir it afterwards; and perhaps all this too may be only whore craft and pretences, and ſo ſhe muſt be forced (to bring herſelf off) to ſham a miſcarriage; and that your cruelty and hard-heartedneſs, in not ſettling your eſtate upon her, and anſwering her demands, has been the cauſe of it, and will at laſt force her to make herſelf away. Well, but if you loved her as well as ſhe loves you, you could not be ſo barbarous to deny her any thing.

Beſides, ſhe has been no chargeable miſtreſs to you; ſhe has been your drudge for at leaſt theſe ſeven months, and has not coſt you fifteen hundred pounds in the whole. If you had lived with ſome ſhe knows in town, ſo long, (but ſhe is an eaſy fool) 'twould not ſtood you in a penny leſs than three thouſand.

Their tricks and devices are numberleſs, and not to be parallelled by any thing but their ingratitude and inhumanity; there indeed they exceed themſelves; nothing in nature being ſo perfectly treacherous and cruel as one of theſe kind of creatures: the very moment you ſtop your hand, they grow rude and inſolent; and when they find they have done your buſineſs, and turned you a grazing, who ſo ready as that very Syren that has ſpent your eſtate, to laugh at, revile, and ſcorn you; and you are not leſs her buff on now than you were her property before.

To have done with her—A jilt is a procurer, bawd, and whore compounded together. A vermin ſo ravenous and malicious, and withal ſo ſubtle and deſigning, not chaſte, and hypocritically virtuous, and yet ſo ſcandalouſly wicked and impudently lewd, and above all ſo inſolently ill natured, that in the title of a jilt are comprehended all the vices, follies, and impertinencies of her whole ſex.

At laſt for their art in Trapping. This is a myſtery that they uſually manage either by the aſſiſtance of a pregnant whore, and by the help of ſome letters and papers that they find in your pocket, that gives them an inlet into your affairs. The firſt is carried on by procurers, bawds, and jilts, and the after by ſharpers, ſetters, and bullies.

If

If they are once so fortunate as to get a big-b llied whore into their confederacy, then they carry her about in a kind of triumph among all their cullies and novices, every one forsooth under the notion of being the true father, must subscribe an individual maintenance for the strumpet and the brat likewise; or else a warrant must be got immediately, or the church-wardens of the parish called in to their assistance to force you to it. 'Tis needless to contest it, for if you do, they'll force the woman to swear it to you, and then your reputation is lost; and withal you have the charges of a whore, and a bastard entailed upon you *ad infinitum*.

If they get your letters and papers into their clutches, those are their credentials for their sharpers, setters, and bullies, to commence their villainies: in such cases, they pretend that the harlot who rifled you was an honest gentlewoman, and the wife of a person of credit and reputation; and you must either make satisfaction, and compound the business, or else they will expose you first, and bring their action afterwards.

And what can a man do, when he has brought himself into such a dilemma of his folly? For my part, the case is so very bad and desperate, I cannot direct you in it. If you compound with them now and do but lay open to their mercy, and render yourself a bubble, and a property for the future—and so evict them, then your credit is lost—they will be as good as their word in that point however, to misrepresent and abuse you in all companies, and upon all occasions; so that this business of whoring seems to have a malevolent influence upon your reputation and person, and soon terminates in destroying them both.

To conclude this loathsome relation, you will learn from this rough account what kind of creatures Procurers, Bawds, Jilts, and Whores are.

THE

THE HUMOURS OF Bullies, Setters, and Hangers-on,

Are expoſed, together with Reflections on GAMING in general.

I ſhall now change the ſex, and expoſe to you ſome of the baſe practices of the males, as they fall in order, under the diſtinct characters of Bullies, Setters, and Hangers-on.

And firſt for the Bully; which (if I take him right) is a kind of lewd, bluſtering animal, that, having rendered himſelf unfit (by a complication of vicious and degenerate actions) for the converſation and ſociety of ſober and rational creatures, is forced to throw himſelf into the company of bawds and whores, in order to get ſubſiſtence from their contributions.

I ſhall not enlarge much upon his character, or method of living, they being both ſo well known in town and country; at beſt, it would be but impertinence to ſpend much time about him. As I told you before, his common rendezvous is among the bawds and whores: he eats their bread, and fights their battles, hectors, and inſults their cullies, gathers their contributions, and, when neceſſity requires, pimps, betrays, and ſets as well as the beſt.

You may diſcern him by his inſolent and ſaucy behaviour, but above all, by his Atheiſtical language, ſwearing, curſing, and ribaldry. If ever you ſhould be ſo unhappy as to fall in with him, he conſequently ente-

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tains you with the dismal relation of the men he has murdered, and the women he ravished; the famous battle he fought with such a watch, or the bloody rencounter he had with a detachment of bailiffs, or some such romantic lies and forgeries. and if he can so far impose upon you, that he perceives you inclined to believe him, it is ten to one but he draws you into a quarrel, or some other inconveniency, and then by a cowardly stratagem, brings himself off, and basely deserts you to shift for yourself.

I need not tell you that a bully is a coward, the appellations are too synonymous to need an explication. The whole streis of his valour and prowess depends solely upon his ignorance and oaths; but ruffle him once thoroughly, that he may perceive you know both his trade and temper, he will fawn upon you for ever afterwards like a spaniel. Kick, cuff, pinch, or use him how you will. He has had the misfortune to kill a man lately, he will tell you, and is under an obligation at present not to fight but when his time is expired, woe be to you.

I hope, Sir, you won't think this a conversable creature—for, notwithstanding all his cowardice and ignorance, and for all he is an animal so perfectly below the character of a man, he can betray you in gaming, quarrels, a bawdy-house, and into the company of rogues, thieves, jilts, and whores, as well as the wittiest sharper, or stoutest spark of the town.

The next gentleman that falls in order is the Setter.—His way of recommending himself is quite contrary, by sly insinuations and flatteries, hypocritical cringes and fawnings, smooth and knavish pretences, and formal dissimulations. But notwithstanding his outside looks so fair and plausible, take heed, there's a legion within him.

All the cheats and villainies in nature are concentrated in his breast; his very soul is as black as jet, and holds itself in readiness for the earliest opportunity to execute the next advantageous offer.

His ordinary occupation is to attend the motion of young heirs; to draw and trepan them into unequal matches, and so impose upon them jilts and whores, under the character of heiresses and virtuous girls; and this he does with so much dexterity, so many subtle arts and crafty stratagems, that it is almost impossible, should you

be

be once so unfortunate as to fall into his hands, to escape out of them again, without being undone for the remainder of your life.

Here, in course, the entail of your estate must be cut off to make room for a settlement on the harlot; and she must have a handsome present made her too, of four or five hundred pounds value. If you have no money, they will procure it from your own bond in judgment, and a friend or two withal, that shall stand bound with you for the payment, till you receive your lady's fortune; but then you must do them the same favour. Only enter into a bond in judgment with one of them, just for a thousand or so, but for one month, and that is a return of civility which you cannot possibly deny.

In such instance the whole business of your life is finished in the course of a week; you are married to a whore: your estate is disjointed and torn in pieces, and perhaps seized upon by a combination of villains; and, what is as great an aggravation as any, you are become the bye-word and laughing stock of your friends and acquaintance. And all this is kindly done for you by your new associate, under the smooth pretence and hypocritical coverture of singular honesty and sincerity.

If this business of a wife does not pass upon you, he will try in the second place, if he can draw you into sham projects and chimeras.

He and his friends have a new-invented engine upon the stocks, by the help of which you may walk with as much freedom and ease at the bottom of the sea, as in your garden; and withal, that they have intelligence, upon oath, of a wreck where there is several millions, and it will be all their own in four or five months at most. If you don't like this, they have a water-engine, that will discharge a thousand tons an hour, out of the deepest mine; or they have a mine where there is a rib of ore, of a prodigious bigness; and for a sum of money, to carry on their work, you may be admitted into their society, and become an equal sharer in the whole, whereby you cannot fail of getting a considerable fortune in a few years.

Here

Here you are entangled again if you embark with them; and not only lose all the present money you part with, but are in danger of being drawn into future bonds and obligations, so consequently ruined at last.

I should only intrude too much on your time, Sir, were I to enumerate the respective rogueries and tricks of a setter, and therefore intend to leave him with the following short character.

His whole life is a compendious history of deep and deliberate villainy. His only business, nay, even his diversion, consists solely in betraying and trepanning: his food and substance depends entirely upon lying, falsehood, and perjury. In a word, he has the devil's motto stamped upon him in large characters, and is perpetually ranging to seek whom he may devour.

I now come, in the last place, to the Hanger on, or Spunger; and this is commonly a sort of foolish lazy creature, though naturally not so dangerous and mischievous as the former, yet equally troublesome and impertinent; and, indeed a far greater clog to any man of sense than either of them.

He has little to recommend him, unless it be a few drunken jests, or scraps of poetry; or, perhaps, some broken characters of men and things, with a little of the news and humours of the town: and by virtue of these mighty qualifications, he thinks himself a fit companion for the best gentleman in the kingdom; and will be sure, upon the most trivial invitation, to crowd himself upon him whenever the smallest encouragement offers, and it is ten to one but by degrees he grows familiar, after that impudent, and at last intolerable.

In one point, indeed, he is a perfect philosopher, for he carries all he has along with him, and that, indeed, is but trifling. His furniture in general is so wretched and scandalous, that you may as soon read a spunger by his garb, &c as a bully by his cursing, swearing, and ribaldry, or a setter by his deceitful fawning and dissimulation. A bawdy song or two, a few drunken healths, and about half a dozen dull puns set him up; and with these he will be perpetually grating and dunning your ears, till he has worn them as thread bare as his coat; and after all,

all, muſt be forced to be laughed at, or kicked out of them before he will quit them.

As for money he never has any, nor ever pretends to have any, unleſs it be now and then the fragments of a reckoning which he pinches from the drawer, to recruit his tobacco-box, or heel-piece his ſhoes.

In ſhort, theſe hangers-on are drones in the ſtricteſt ſenſe and definition; and if you once ſuffer them to creep into your hive (to keep up to the nature of the inſection) they will be ſure to beſmear and diſturb your cell, devour your honey, and in all reſpects be as burthenſome and pernicious to the perſons they can faſten upon, as drones and waſps are to bees, &c.

London ſo ſwarms with this ſort of inſect, that a country gentleman can ſcarce ſet his foot into it, but there are ſeveral inſtantly humming and buzzing about him. I have already given you my opinion of idleneſs; and I tell you again, in the words of a great man, that it is ſo ſcandalous and reproachful, that neither Heaven, Earth, nor Hell itſelf will patronize it.

PARTICULAR

OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS

UPON

Several diſtinct Occurences of the Town.

FIRST, as to their garb. You will find ſome of our city gentry ſo ridiculouſly bawdy and extravagant in their dreſs, that, comparatively ſpeaking, a ſhip may be rigged for the Indies as cheap and eaſy. Moſt of the trades

trades in the commonwealth are ſome way or other concerned in their equipage——ſuch a ſtrange multiplying faculty has this ſort of vanity, that it has improved nature's ſimple neceſſity of covering, the firſt fig leaves, (ſo termed by that excellent author of the gentleman's calling) to ſuch a luxuriant growth, that thoſe hercynean oaks, which Mela tells ſuch wonders of, are but a ſort of pigmy plants in compariſon of them.

But theſe are only a kind of butterfly ſparks; a few inſignificant inſects that flutter about town for a year or two, and are afterwards obliged to creep into holes and corners in a dreſs, perhaps, no leſs contemptible, wretched, and loathſome, than the former was gay, fulſome, and pedantic.

This is a folly I cannot ſuſpect a gentleman of your ſenſe would be guilty of; and yet, vain and fooliſh as it is, I could quote you a conſiderable number that have been undone by it; who have laid out their eſtate in a few gaudy trappings, that they may make a figure, (as they call it) have carried it on to ſuch a length, that at laſt they have figured themſelves into rags, or a priſon, and thereby rendered the contempt and laughing-ſtock of the whole town.

Next to theſe we have another rank of unthinking creatures, a ſort of nice palated ſparks, that nothing will go down with but dainties and curioſities. Tell them of good beef, mutton, veal, or any of our own productions, which we ought to prefer beyond any other, they will ſwear they are nothing but porters fare; and that, unleſs they are adulterated with ſome ſtudied mixtures, and forced from their native property by ſome new and coſtly ſauces, they are far too mean and common for their table.

Theſe, in the ſtricteſt ſenſe, may be ſaid to incur the vulture's fate, i. e. to eat up themſelves; and truly ſo, that it frequently falls out. I have known, within the compaſs of my own experience, a great number of theſe luxurious prodigals, that have ſo long tantalized themſelves with delicious morſels, that in time they have wanted food to ſupport nature.

Others we have, that affect the reputation of making coſtly treats and entertainments. An hundred pounds is but a mean ſum to ſpend upon an evening's collation for a miſtreſs or two, which, perhaps, after all, does him the favour to laugh at his prodigality.

I heard a fool (who is now ſhirking about town, and glad that any body will give him a pint of beer, or a roll and cheeſe) bragging, not many months before——, That an entertainment he made for three or four ladies coſt him one hundred and twenty pounds.

Such wretches are below all kind of pity. I could almoſt grudge them even the huſks their extravagance confines them to, and heartily wiſh them ſome fate more ſcandalous and durable, that might not only nauſeate but deter the reſt of the world from the like extravagance.

As there are ſeveral things beſide, that might be mentioned, not leſs dangerous than ridiculous, I muſt beg you'd be guarded againſt ſuch follies—— But pray do not miſtake me: notwithſtanding I deteſt all extravagance and ſingularity, yet muſt admit of a decent garb and genteel, friendly entertainment occaſionally, whilſt kept within the bounds of moderation, as equally neceſſary and commendable in a gentleman.

Beſides all the dangers and inconvencies I have already related, there are ſtill two other, which you are to guard yourſelf againſt: the firſt is, againſt innovations and unſettled in your religion; and the ſecond againſt embarking in cabals and confederacies, in matters belonging to the ſtate and government.

We have temptations and tempters, of all ſorts at London, great numbers of perſons that make it their buſineſs to ſnap up ſtrangers, and watch all occaſions if they can to impoſe their rubbiſh upon them.

Caballing and embarking with ſects and factions has a dangerous tendency; for numbers of gentlemen of ſtrict honour and religious principles have been ruined by it; therefore, I earneſtly entreat thoſe gentlemen who have had the ſaid experience, to adviſe others from becoming the victim of ſuch folly.

THE

HUMOURS AND TRICKS OF THE TENNIS COURT are exposed.

TENNIS is one of the most manly and active diversions we have in England; and heretofore was seldom used but by the young nobility and gentlemen of the first rank. King Charles the second was a great master and judge of it; and would very often divert himself with a set or two in the Royal Court at the Cock-pit, with a great deal of satisfaction.

This is a game that depends much upon skill and activity, and not to be acquired without considerable expence and practice, upon which account it has had the advantage of most others, and a number of sharpers and cheats have been kept out of it, for want of cash to support the charge of the court, and other expences that attending it. But this, however harmless and inoffensive in its original design, has, of late, incurred the same fate with most of the diversions of that nature, and is strangely degenerated from a noble and genteel exercise, into a perfect trade for Rookers and Sharpers, who, perceiving it would be a good foundation for them to get a base living, have artfully twisted themselves into the knowledge of it.

A person that has seen this game but once, can make but little on it, except it be diversion to him to see three or four persons furiously running after a few little balls, and bandying and tossings them about from one to another; if this be all, 'twere well enough, but when he hears the marker calling Forty, love, and a Chace, and sees them changing their sides, and hears the players

wrangling and ſwearing about the taking of Biſks and Faults, and talking of Cuts, Twiſts, and Forces, &c. he preſently concludes there muſt be ſome wonderful ſecret in all this, and therefore is determined to ſatisfy himſelf a little farther.

Among thoſe gentry that come here to bet, if a ſtranger gets into the den, and has the misfortune to declare his ignorance, which is done by aſking queſtions, the item is immediately given.—Here's a Squire come; and then two or three of the ſharpeſt of the gang comes up to him, in order to give him ſome little inſight into, and directions of the game, that thereby an opportunity ſhould be ſooner aſcertained for taking him in after ſuch preparation. Here, he's to'd, it is all even, a perfect lottery, and that 'tis no odds which ſide he ventures his caſh, for 'tis all equal; and ſo, indeed, in ſome ſets it is, for ſuch noblemen and gentlemen who are acquainted with the game, and play it upon the ſquare, more for the reputation of good gameſters than for intereſt, make their matches ſo equal, that the greateſt ſharper or judge among them (before the ſet's begun) can but gueſs how to bet. Perhaps he now wins half a piece, or a guinea, which induces him to think this muſt be a fair game; that a ſtranger has as great chance to win as a gameſter; and, indeed, as long as this match laſts, he is in no great danger.

This game is no ſooner ended, than another ſet is made to ſtep into court, that will be certain to do the buſineſs.

The managers tell him, 'tis all equal now, too—that Squire A——— is a good Striker-out, but Squire B——— is a better Back hand; that Mr. C—— judges a ball finely, but Mr. D——— gives a chace much better than he; ſo that, upon the whole, it may be concluded a good and equal match, and that he'll ſee theſe gentlemen will make better ſport than the former.

In this he is offered his choice, or to throw croſs and pile which ſide he will take: if he complies, and they have taken him in, as far as it will admit of at once, then the ſignal is given to the players, how to manage their parts.

When

When this ſet is over, which, according to all appearance, plays with as much ſeeming eagerneſs, and as equal as can be, why then, with ſome little ſham quarrels and wranglings, about adjuſting the odds, &c. agree upon another.

Here the ſtranger is attacked again—Come, Sir, you had the misfortune to be on the wrong ſide laſt time, though it was a hard match; for 'twas impoſſible to determine who had the beſt of it, till the advantage game; and therefore take your choice—we do not mean to take of your caſh.

From one ſet to another, this is their method to take in ſtranger; and ſo, from little bets to great ones, till he is ſtuck, (as they term it) and then, to keep up their own language, till they have ſent him away ſweet and clean.

I was once a tolerable maſter of this game, I ſtudied it at Oxford, together with my logick and ethicks, and at laſt was arrived to ſuch perfection, that but few ſcholars in the town durſt encounter with me upon equal terms, (I wiſh I could have ſaid the ſame with reſpect to the other) but for all theſe mighty parts of mine in the Univerſity, when I came to London, I ſoon found my inſufficiency; and that I muſt be new documentized before I could pretend to ſet up for myſelf.

They would now and then take me in with them, to keep a back-hand, which was indeed my maſter-piece; but of my back hand buſineſs I was ſoon ſurfeited.

In ſhort, I perceived their aim was to make a property of me as well as of all other ſtrangers, and therefore reſolved to knock off in time, as I ſoon became acquainted with their humours and tricks, and ſaw that there were but few matches made, in which ſome bribed marker was not concerned; or ſome gentleman that had firſt loſt his eſtate, and then his honour; ſo forced to agree with the ſharping and tricks of the town to get his bread; or ſome ſcoundrel that never had an eſtate or honour either, but had acquired the game by a diligent attendance upon the courts, crowded in among them; and there was ſcarcely a ſet played but there was ſome kind of deceit practiſed, which made me wiſely diſpoſe of my markets

and inclination together, and leave them to manage all such matters in future.

But, supposing the game, as they would fain have the world believe, to be equal and upon the square, yet one of these sparks, who make it their business to hunt about from court to court, have such a great advantage over a stranger who knows little of the game, that it is morally impossible but he must be taken in.

There are several in town that have no other means of living but upon the Tennis Court, (and live well too) if such means may be so termed; but then they have such a perfect idea of a set, and such various methods to turn and wind their bets, so as to bring themselves off when they have the worst, that a person must have a natural sharpness of genius, backed with a long practice and experience, before he can be a tolerable master of the faculty.

I hope, Sir, I have said enough on this head to deter you from entering into such kind of company, as they, like sharpers of the different orders before mentioned, have all their various intrigues and devices to trepan and ensnare you into debaucheries and gaming.

THE Humours of the GROOM-PORTERS, AND THE Tricks and Cheats of Ordinaries and other Gaming Houses are briefly exposed.

THE Groom Porter's has been always looked upon as the most reputable and convenient place in town for

for a gentleman to venture into, that has a mind to know whether his good fortune will suffer him to keep his estate himself, or force him to commit it into the hands of somebody else to do it for him. There is a wholesale business, I can assure you, several thousand pounds bartered for most nights, so that if Fortune should play the jilt, (as she often does in such cases) you will soon be unsquired in two or three hours; nay, if you will, in two or three hands.

The ordinary game they play at there is hazard, and hazard indeed it is, and a great one too, if you go in among them with two or three hundred guineas in your pocket, whether you bring ever a one out with you again.

I have known an honest gentleman come thither in a new coach, with a pair of fine horses, and hath found it so hazardous, that in a night or two afterwards he has been forced to hazard it home in a hackney coach. But they say, all things there are quite square and honest, good wine, good attendance, good company, and all other suitable conveniences to accommodate a gentleman, whilst he is comfortably gaming away his estate. All this may be, it is true; and it may not be too, for I have seen a spark, by the help of good fingers, and a slight of hand, manage their mathematicks something queerly upon occasion.

Well, but we must not dive too far into their secrets neither, they would grow angry perhaps, if we should, and I would not incur their displeasure upon any account. And yet I hope I may give you a little advice as a friend, without being offensive to any of them; it is, that you never come within their reach upon any account, or pretence whatever; it is a dangerous infectious place for a gentleman but to put his head into; and many one, by venturing too far, has caught such a contagion at once, that has made him droop a great while, and at last carried him clear off.

The old proverb says—Fore warned fore armed; and truly it is as good as any in the whole catalogue. If a man will plunge himself into ruin, and squander away his estate, and reduce himself to the wretched condition to be forced to sneak after every little coxcomb for a slipper,

per, or for a crown to buy him a pair of ſhoes, as I know ſeveral gentlemen of good families, and have had good eſtates too, till they wiſely conſumed them in the ſtudy of theſe ſorts of mathematicks, at this time are; let him even take it for his pains. But the circumſtances in their own nature, are beyond aggravation, and ſo I will leave them, and go and ſee what is doing at the Ordinaries.

The ordinaries are a kind of gaming houſes, inferior and ſubſervient to the Groom Porter's, and are either managed by one of his domeſticks, or elſe tolerated and allowed by his particular licence and deputations, as moſt of the other games are.

Theſe ordinaries are a receptacle for all ſorts of gameſters, and are indeed very convenient nurſeries to draw up youngſters, and to qualify them againſt their eſtates come into their hands, to play them decently away at the Groom Porter's. How ſuch kind of ſeminaries as theſe come to be ſuffered, I know not; but this I know, it is a ſhame and diſgrace to the kingdom, that there is not ſome regulation or ſtop put to them.

Theſe gentlemen pretend to be much upon the Mathematicks too; and that all things are carried extraordinary and well among them, as well as at the Groom Porter's; but, by their leave, I have ſeen their mathematical flats, and bars, nay, (for a need) mathematical ſquams too; and abundance that will run mathematically high or low: theſe are a ſort of falſe dice, that are cut and ſtained ſo exactly like the true, and withal marked with the ſame mark, that it is impoſſible for a ſtranger that does not ſuſpect the cheat, to diſcover it; and theſe the box-keeper has in readineſs, when he has the ſign given him to put in: or if he has them not of his own, there's thoſe about him that never go without them.

When they have got a gentleman who they deſign to rook in among them, whilſt ſome are ſharping him out of his money within, others are tampering with his ſervants without, to find out the ſtrength and manner of his eſtate and circumſtances, and where he lodges, and friends and acquaintance, he has in town: and if they find that his effects will anſwer, he is a perſon that may be ventured upon.

As

As ſoon as they perceive he has loſt all his ſtock, then one of the gang that's conſtantly watching there for ſuch opportunities, takes him aſide—Sir, ſays he, I believe you are an honeſt gentleman; I am ſorry to ſee you have loſt your caſh, and would not have a civil man expoſed, and therefore, if you pleaſe, I have five or ten pounds at your ſervice. If he accepts of the favour then he tells him the cuſtom in ſuch cases, as well here as at the Groom Porter's, is to take nine for ten, and to allow him a call upon a good hand.

When this is loſt too, (as it always is in a little time) then they conclude he's fixed; and ſo the gentleman that has done him the favour to cheat him of his caſh, will needs (under pretence of a great deal of formal civility) invite him to the tavern to take a glaſs, and eat the wing of a fowl with him.

When they have got him thither, the perſon that did him the great friendſhip to lend him the ten guineas, muſt be inſtantly ſent for too, who in the interim has made up a new purſe, and is very ready to lend him the other ten, till to-morrow morning, if he has a mind to try his luck; but he will not adviſe him.

Here the box and dice muſt be called for, and the honeſt drawer, that knows his duty in ſuch caſes, brings in the box with a pair of their own dice, which they have conveyed into his hand in the interim, &c.

And now there's no room for ſuſpicion, but every thing is carried with the greateſt frankneſs and indifferency; and ſo at it they go, till the other ten pounds is gone after the reſt, and what muſt be done then? This worthy friend has no more money about him; if he had, he might command it. And therefore thinks, ſince they have won the gentleman's caſh, they can do no leſs than give him a caſt or two upon honour; with a great deal of ſeeming uneaſineſs, and a thouſand perfidious oaths and execrations, that they never did the like before, and upon condition too, that the gentleman will give his note to pay it to-morrow morning, if he ſhould happen to loſe any thing, this is complied with.

And here begins the fatal cataſtrophe: if they think that he has too much regard for his reputation, or too much

much modesty to make use of the statute for his defence, or perhaps, (what's more prevalent with him than either) will be unwilling that the town should know he has been a bubble, they then stick him in earnest so deep, it may be, that he must be forced to cut off a limb of his estate to get out of their clutches, and no. to be seen with them again.

We have too many sad instances every day in view, to convince you of the truth of it, without enlarging upon it; so that I hope from this caution I have given, you'll have enough of these kind of ordinaries; however, for your better satisfaction, we'll see what the rest of them are doing in the other part of the house.

Why there is some playing at back gammon, some at trick track, some at picket, some at cribbage, and perhaps at a bye-table in a corner, four or five harmless fellows at put and all-fours. Here's no respect of persons; here comes apprentices, journeymen, footmen, waiters, or any body, provided they bring money in their pockets and come either to cheat or to be cheated. Pro hac vice, they have as extensive a qualification to swear, blaspheme, and hector, as the most renowned sharper in the whole gang.

That each of these in his respective station is a cheat I suppose you'll take for granted; you may as well be cheated at cards as at dice, and at back gammon and trick track, as at hazard: the false dice and slights of hand will serve for one, as well as the other, there's no difference as I know of, but only the former is a little longer about the business.

But besides all this, if a man could be secured to guard himself against these false dice and slights of hand, and was equal with them too in point of judgment and experience, what business has a country gentleman, or indeed any body else, to venture himself among such a rude herd of wild unthinking creatures?

I'm sorry to say it is shameful that gentlemen should so much debase themselves in such an unaccountable manner — When I see one of these wretches skulking about town in rags, as there are numbers living monuments of their own vicious indiscretion, it does not excite in me the least

least pity, as I'm in hopes it will deter all others from violently plunging himself into the like misfortune.

THE HUMOURS, TRICKS AND CHEATS OF The BOWLING GREEN exposed.

BOWLING is a game for diversion, recreation, and exercise, as well as Tennis, and was formerly, like that, for few else but gentlemen; but as men and things are in general grown worse and worse, so is this likewise, and most strangely degenerated from an innocent, inoffensive diversion, to be a perfect trade—a kind of set calling and occupation for cheats and sharpers.

The number of bowling greens that we have in and near this town are unaccountable; and the number of bowlers, betters, and rooks that depend upon them, and live by them, it is almost miraculous. How such an amazing number as do live by this, and in such high and extravagant a manner is to me unknown, but that they do live is most undoubted. However, I shall set forth some part of their art, and leave the rest to your own judgement.

With your leave, therefore, we will just take a short trip to Marylebone, (for that is the chief place of rendezvous) the bowling greens there having, in these latter years, gained a vast pre-eminence and reputation above the rest. Thither most of the noblemen and gentlemen of

of the town, that affect that kind of recreation, generally reſort. I have ſeen at leaſt an hundred at a time following one block, and the greateſt part of them, five to one I am confident, were rooks and ſharpers.

When a match is made, which they are commonly exceſſive nice in, (but not ſo nice neither, but a ſubtle old one better knows preſently where the odds lie) then you'll find the ſport begins.

Here you'll hear five, ten, twenty pieces offered, the Leader againſt the Follower, or the Follower againſt the Leader, ſometimes upon the Main End. Oftentimes you will ſee five or ten pounds betted upon a ſingle bowl; and as nothing but gold is ever betted here, a man ought to have a good ſtock that pretends entering into an engagement with them.

The chief ſecret and myſtery of all is, how one of theſe profeſſed betters manage their point; for, let the game go for or againſt them, it is great odds but they turn a penny to their own advantage, or, at leaſt, ſave themſelves at the winding-up.

So ſtrange as this may appear to an unguarded gentleman, it is certainly true; for I have heard one of theſe ſharping geniuſſes declare, that notwithſtanding he had loſt five pieces by the bargain, yet he ſhould be a clear gainer of three guineas in the main, which could be done by no other means than his cunning and artful contrivances in hedging, and his taking and laying the odds, which is moſt certain the chiefeſt part in betting.

This, Sir, is an art that is not to be learned on a ſudden; and, indeed, it is much beneath a gentleman's notice, unleſs he has ſome inclination to loſe his eſtate firſt, and, being reduced afterwards to the neceſſity of turning rook for a livelihood.

Marylebone, as I told you, is the chief place about town; but, for all its greatneſs and pre-eminence, it lies under ſhrewd ſuſpicions of being guilty of ſharping and crimping as well as the reſt.

The noblemen and gentlemen, indeed, I firmly believe, are far above any thing ſo exceſſive baſe and ſordid; but there is great cauſe for jealouſy on the part of thoſe ſharping interlopers before-mentioned; for, whenever

ever they find a convenient Green, with a number of citizens, monied fools, and ſtrangers, they are always ſure to have a match prepared for the diverſion of ſuch adventurers.

Oftentimes have I obſerved, with much pain and anxiety of heart, the ſcandalous, unequal, and unfair dealings, ſo frequently practiſed among thoſe kind of ſharping gentry; and what has ſtill greatly heightened my admiration, and given me inexpreſſible diſſatisfaction, was to ſee a number of gentlemen, not intereſted the leaſt in their tricks, winking and conniving at them.

In ſhort, Sir, I'm convinced it will be your beſt way never to come there at all, and then you will be both out of danger and the temptation too; for unleſs you are ſo much the maſter of yourſelf, as I know ſome that are, only to divert yourſelf with walking about, and making obſervations on the tricks and humours of the company, you will moſt certainly be in exceſſive great danger of being ſeduced or enſnared into ſome ſort of gaming, which you may perhaps have occaſion to repent for ever after.

Here you may be equipped with each kind of game. If you are for the famous one of two dice, well known and properly diſtinguiſhed by the memorable title of Hazard, there the Groom Porter has a gentleman in ordinary continually in waiting to catch at whatever of this kind may offer. If you are for Back-gammon, Tick-tack, Piquet, Cribbage, or for an honeſt upright game at Whiſt, there are chapmen enough willing to accompany you at either.

But, by the way, Sir, give me leave to offer this ſmall portion of friendly advice, which I doubt not will have the deſired effect on your good underſtanding.—Beware of their artful inſinuations to betray you into their artful ſnare; for it is ten to one if they once bring you down, (as they term it) if ever they ſuffer you to riſe again, without being ſtripped of every ſhilling.

However, Sir, I would not wiſh to be too troubleſome or tedious upon this head, as it would be taking up too much of your time, if you will be ſo condeſcending as to do me the honour of taking a walk on the other ſide of the water, there you will meet with bowling greens, and

perhaps bowlers and betters too of a different ſtamp, and well worth obſervation.

A gang of ſuch unaccountable creatures there are mixed and jumbled together, and ſuch a ſtrange and horrid din of blaſphemy and ſwearing, (too common indeed in moſt of theſe ſcandalous kind of aſſemblies) that I know not where to begin, or when to end my ſad, ſhocking, and dismal account of them.

Well, Sir, to have done with them as faſt as poſſible, their common way of proceeding is this—There are generally five or ſix that play at one of theſe Greens, who are looked upon to be the Cocks or chief Bowlers, and theſe always keep together, unleſs they can draw in a younker to make a property of.

Their method of making their matches is, as at moſt other Greens, by drawing the dice, which, where the gameſters are equal, is well enough; but then, on the other hand, it ſerves only for a blind, in order to impoſe upon thoſe gentlemen who are ſtrangers, and quite unacquainted with their cheating deſigns; for, let the dice fall which way they will, their friends and allies, the Betters, give the ſign which ſide muſt win; and each of theſe has always his familiar or two near him to direct him, whether he ſhall bowl on or off, either of which they will do for the intereſt of ſixpence advantage.

When they are in want of a fourth perſon, which ſometimes happens to be the caſe, they are under the neceſſity of taking in a ſtranger to make up the ſet, and then matters cannot be quite ſo well managed in their favour.—However, to make the beſt of it, they all three bowl againſt him; and none more earneſtly than his own partner.——He, of courſe, muſt lead; and then, if he puts in a good caſt, and leaves him beſt at the block, if the game be in any danger, he will be ſure to be two or three turns over; and either wreſt him off, or ſtrike up the adverſary: and, to blind the ſtranger, will impudently pretend to juſtify the thing, notwithſtanding the miſcarriage, to be the judgment of the game; and if he could have ſtruck the other out, which he never intended, they had been up.

In

In ſhort, they manage the matter ſo, that unleſs the ſtranger be able to beat them all three, he muſt neceſſarily loſe his money; and yet they carry on the game ſo equally, and with ſo much ſeeming fairneſs and policy, that it is almoſt an impoſſibility to find them out.

If they get a ſtranger to engage them hand to hand, let him be ever ſo exact and judicious a bowler, they will find out ſome means to cheat him of his game.

The following are ſome of the methods frequently uſed for that purpoſe; ſome will be croſſing the ground, others bawling and confounding him with impertinent advice, juſt on the delivery of his bowl, to make him forget his lengths; or, perhaps, one of the gang will pretend to have betted on his ſide, and ſo endeavour to perſuade him to take falſe ground.

When ſuch like mean artifice fails, they have yet another expedient. Juſt as he is become acquainted with the running and biaſſes of the bowls, they pretend a gentleman is come who owns them, and muſt have them. Here is another pair of the ſame ſize and weight, and equally as good; only it is the gentleman's humour to bowl with none other. And theſe, perhaps, are back biaſſed, pegged, loaded, or played ſome other tricks with; ſo that it is impoſſible to come near the mark with them.

I could enumerate a number more of their artful tricks but they are neither worth your time to read, nor mine to write; for, beſides theſe cheats and tricks, after the diverſion is over, you muſt accompany them to drink a bottle at ſome friend's; ſo, as they, like all other gameſters, have their whores, ſetters, and pick-pockets, falſe dice, and cards, and every other dangerous engine on all occaſions, I hope my caution, as well in every other as in this particular, will have the deſired effect, and prevent you country gentlemen from entering into ſuch deſtructive deluſions, which too frequently end in utter ruin.

Having therefore ſaid as much of each of the diverſions and games in and about London, which are in themſelves ſimply innocent and healthful, and ſerve for recreation both to body and mind, as may guard the unwary from falling a prey to ſuch dangerous ſets of human monſters, I hope every gentleman will have it in his power to diſcern the difference between ſuch deceitful wretch-

es and real gentlemen, who, having a few leiſure hours upon their hands, do frequently exerciſe and amuſe themſelves with ſuch ſorts of diverſion, but always with a cautious eye upon ſtrangers, leſt by engaging too far in their company, as well knowing their cunning devices, they ſooner or later become, like too many others, the fatal victims of the tricks of the town.

THE

CHARACTER

OF

HIGHWAYMEN, OR SCAMPS.

THESE are generally perſons that have been accuſtomed to extravagant living and lewd women, and thus exhauſted their ſubſtance. If ſucceſsful in buſineſs, they appear as gentlemen, and get acquainted with the oſtlers on the road, and ſome landlords to obtain intelligence. Gentlemen travellers frequently call for the landlord to take a glaſs with them; and in the courſe of converſation diſcover what caſh or notes they have, and where they lie, the road they are going, and the inn they uſe. When Mr. Scamp comes, he calls for a bottle or bowl, and aſks, What news? when, perhaps, the landlord, undeſignedly, informs him that ſuch or ſuch company are in the houſe, who have given intelligence concerning various particulars, which he repeats, if time permits. For theſe reaſons many gentlemen are purſued on the road, though more are met by chance. Highwaymen generally croſs you before they ſalute; but I adviſe all gentlemen travellers not to divulge what ſubſtance they have with them to any landlord or oſtler, eſpecially within forty miles

miles of London; as they generally discover all the information they can get, either through ignorance or design.

THE TRICKS AND CHEATS OF SHARPERS.

THESE are the more delusive, as most of them are men of reputable extraction, tolerable education, and decent appearance; but through vicious pursuits have squandered their fortunes, and lost their reputation. They range the town in the garb, and under the character of gentlemen of independent fortunes; and make it their business to find out young heirs of much wealth, and less prudence, who having left their rural abodes, and being captivated with the novelty of a town life, often affect the company of those who, according to the common phrase, are said to know life. They commonly resort the billiard table, the cock-pit, the race course, the tennis court, and bowling green; in the respective games belonging to which they are generally well versed by a long once costly experience.

Having been as they call it taken in themselves, they falsely infer their right to take in others; and accordingly turn their whole minds to that base purpose. Constant practice teaches them almost at a glance to discern the gamester from the cake, as they term it; and such a one is no sooner entered their place of resort, but they devise means to draw him in for the plate; and generally strip

his pockets before he departs. So fallacious are they, that they will, even under the maſk of friendſhip, draw an unguarded generous man into the moſt deſtructive meaſures, and ſhare with their baſe confederates the product of their treachery. If you hazard your money in bets with a ſharper, as cheating is his inſeparable qualification, you have not only blind chance to deal with, but ſuch a combination of deceit, and ſuch a train of tricks and ſlights linked together, that even good fortune itſelf is not ſufficient to guard and ſecure you againſt them. Nay, if you could ariſe to a degree of eminence in any particular game, he would even then deviſe means, either by working up your paſſion, or eluding your inſpection, to fruſtrate your point and carry his own.

He will inveigle you, from time to time, into one ſport or another, amongſt others of his clan, who are adepts in diſſimulation, till they have genteely fleeced you of perhaps your all, and treat you afterwards with as much indifference as he at firſt affected reſpect. When you can no longer adminiſter to his iniquitous purpoſes, he will not only deſert you, but make a ſcoff of your inexperience and credulity. To ſum up the character of a ſharper, he is one who ſupplies his exigencies by ſtudying and practiſing every means that may deceive the credulous, allure the inexperienced, trapan the ignorant, and miſlead the well diſpoſed. His conſcience is ſeared, as it were, with a hot iron, he is regardleſs of the laws of God and man, as far as is conſiſtent with his ſecurity, and is ſo abſorbed in vice, that he is inſuſceptible of every humane or honourable ſentiment. To avoid the fatal effects of connexion with theſe ſnakes in the graſs, if you have no acquaintance in town, be very cautious of keeping company. If any one behaves with extraordinary civility towards you, or affects to deſire your friendſhip, beware of him, liſten not to his enticements, for as you are a ſtranger to him, his deſire of cultivating an acquaintance with you muſt ariſe from baſe or ſelfiſh views. If you are accoſted in the ſtreet, Park, or any place of public reſort, in the ordinary way of converſe, concerning the topic of the time, or any incidental ſubject, affect either not to hear, or turn aſide. This is a very common method of proceeding with thoſe gentlemen.

In

In ſhort, take nothing on truſt, nor make any acquaintance, till aſſured of their way of life and moral character.

THE

TRICKS

OF

KIDNAPPERS.

THESE are lazy vagrants of ruined characters, who are employed to trapan ignorant unſuſpecting men to enter into the ſervice of the Merchants, or in time of war into the army or navy. They haunt night houſes, petty ale houſes, and the ſkirts of the town. Their uſual method is to accoſt a countryman in the common manner of ſalutation, and if poſſible inveigle him into a houſe to drink. If poor John catches at the bait, they then put the liquor about briſkly, and if they find it begins to operate, they queſtion him concerning the time of his being in town, the profeſſion he follows, or intends to follow, &c. If he has been bred to any trade, they intimate to him the ſuperiority of a gentleman ſoldier's life, who is in the road both to fortune and preferment; if of no trade, and in queſt of a place of ſervice, they aſſure him they will provide him with every requiſite for a gentleman, without the drudgery of menial life. It is very common at their places of rendezvous, to have two or three fellows attired in ſerjeants regimentals, who are ready to aſſure them of their ſpeedy preferment, and that they need not doubt of the ſame. When he becomes intoxicated, they frequently ſlip money into his pocket, and

and in an hour or two afterwards, ſalute him as a brother ſoldier; if the poor countryman diſcovers any ſurprize at this ſalutation, they then apply to their perjured comrades, who are ready to atteſt his acceptation of bounty money in conſideration of enliſting: and to prove it, he is referred to his own feeling. The aſtoniſhed innocent then puts his hand into his pocket, if capable, finds the money, and is ſtruck with amazement If the liquor operates according to the baſe deſire of thoſe who adminiſter it, they ſave themſelves further trouble after they have palmed the money on the unſuſpecting man, by conveying him to bed, locking the door of the room, and leaving him to his morning reflections.

The reader may readily conceive the aſtoniſhment of the honeſt countryman, when he awakes in a ſtrange place, finds a cockade in his hat or the money in his pocket. In vain he expoſtulates with the mercileſs myrmidon, who is ready to ſwear it was an act of his free will, and if he deſires to be exempted from the obligation, he muſt come down ſomething handſome. Thus the poor harmleſs, honeſt man, is trapanned either into a ſtate of ſlavery, (for in many caſes it is no better) or obliged to purchaſe his deliverance at an extortionate rate.

This is the common method in which theſe enſlavers of the unwary commonly proceed: and ſuch the two general conſequence of their vile crafts, and the credulity of inexperienced youth.

To caution you againſt theſe ſeducers of the unthinking, obſerve that many of them dreſs in the garb of officers, and ſtand often at the door of an alehouſe, in order to accoſt paſſers by. Some of them appear in other garbs and their buſineſs is to allure you to the houſe where the principal villain is ready to receive you. The firſt you may know by his dreſs; the latter you may ſuſpect from his impertinent addreſs: you have therefore only to remember theſe deſcriptions, and avoid whatever talkes in the leaſt with them.

THE

THE

CHARACTER

OF

PICK POCKETS.

THESE rabble of cheats are ſuch as from their youth have been trained to the baſe art, which conſiſts of a kind of ſlight in picking your property from you imperceptibly. Their chief reſort is Black Boy Alley, the ruinous buildings about Chick Lane, and ſuch like places. They attend on public occaſions; ſuch as public days, proceſſions, extraordinary fights, &c. They generally go in clans of a man, a woman, and children, each of whom have their reſpective departments. In crouds they affect a great deſire of paſſing, and the uſual method is for the man to joſtle the perſon pointed out as the mark, while a boy or girl does the buſineſs, and conveys the plunder to a woman, and then makes off frequently under a coach or two, if there are any at hand. They alſo frequent places of public worſhip, that are generally crowded through faſhion or the popularity of a preacher, from which they frequently carry off a good booty; and indeed embrace every opportunity, when there is likely to be a concourſe of people. Theſe are the moſt difficult of all cheats to guard againſt in London, becauſe they are more in number, and often in purſuit of prey. The moſt effectual method I can preſcribe is, to avoid all crowds, which are frequently raiſed by theſe means, and if you go to places of public reſort, leave every thing valuable behind you, and always be upon your guard. Ladies in particular ſhould be careful of their watches and tweezers, as theſe are eaſily cut from their ſides.

THE

CHARACTER

OF A

QUACK DOCTOR.

THESE are arrogant miſcreants, that rob thouſands, not only of their money but their health. They pretend to a knowledge in phyſick and ſurgery, on the mere foundation, perhaps, of having done the menial offices of gentlemen of the faculties; or perhaps a few receipts from ſome of their own vile fraternity. They have nothing to recommend them but a conſummate effrontery, and no other means of palming their peſtiferous compounds upon the unwary, than puff, groundleſs aſſurances, and inſolent detraction. They have alſo a convenient back door, and private room, a regular ſurgeon and phyſician to attend, and a thouſand ſuch like allurements, to entice you to the ruin of your conſtitution.

Country people are more eſpecially liable to be caught in their ſnares, from want of acquaintance in town, and if their caſe is venereal, through ſhame of divulging it to thoſe with whom they reſide. To caution you againſt theſe murderers of the conſtitution, I ſhall lay before you their general method of treating the unhappy patient in venereal caſes particularly.

When the infected perſon applies, they judge of his circumſtances generally by his appearance, and take care to make him come down before they proceed to buſineſs. After examination, if they find him a novice, they endeavour to intimidate him, by repreſenting the ſtate of his caſe to be much worſe than it really is; but yet, to extort money, promiſe, notwithſtanding the malignant nature of it, a ſpeedy and effectual cure. Having given him

him ſome of their compounds, with directions concerning the application of them, they appoint an interview at a certain time and diſmiſs him. He then muſt produce another preſent, and is diſmiſſed as before. Their common method is to dally with you as long as poſſible, and then either deceive you with a patched up cure, or more dreadful ſymptoms than appeared on your firſt application, but the former is the moſt common caſe, of which there are daily inſtances in this town. To avoid all connection with theſe worſt of deceivers, apply, on all occaſions to perſons of eſtabliſhed repute from a regular education and fair character.

THE

TRICKS

OF

KIDLAYERS.

IN this cheat there are always two or three ſharpers concerned; and it is generally practiſed at night.—One goes on one ſide of the ſtreet, the other on the other; and if they meet a countryman with a portmanteau, box, or bundle, they follow him until he reſts it. One of them then goes up to him, and ſays, I'll give you a ſhilling to carry this letter to that houſe, becauſe I do not care to go myſelf, but do not ſtay. In the mean time they poke off with the booty. If he reſts not on the way, one of them will go up to him and aſk him where he is going, and if unacquainted with the trick, will gain from him certain intelligence. He then informs his partner, who being genteely dreſſed, goes forward to the houſe, and having left his hat with a comrade,

comes

comes from the door juſt as the countryman arrives, and cries, What made you ſtay ſo long? then takes the things from him, and bids him go over the way to that houſe or tavern for ſome beer, or a bottle of wine, and ſays, Bring change for a guinea, or I cannot pay you. While the perſon is gone over, the things are brushed, that is, carried off, to the great ſurpr ze of the bearer.

If they ſee a countryman with a bundle aſking the way, they will accompany him, pretend to direct him, and carry the bundle or box for him; and whilſt one takes the perſon forward, the other gives them the drop, down ſome yard or alley, having previouſly agreed where to meet again with the booty; ſo the poor ignorant man is left in the lurch.

THE

CHEATS

OF

DUFFERS.

THESE ſons of rapine generally ply in publick places, and their uſual method of proceeding is as follows. When they ſee a novice or countryman paſſing they beckon to him, and if he liſtens, inform him, that they have various foreign commodities to diſpoſe of at leſs than half price, but as they a e run, privacy is requiſite, and they muſt therefore beg the favour of him to ſtep with them to a place convenient for the purp ſe. If the cheat ſucceeds thus far, the ſtranger is conducted through ſome lane, alley, or bye path, to an ob cure corner provided for their deſign. When he is entered, and the Duffer b gins to bring out his commodities, in comes

comes an accomplice, as pretended, on the ſame errand, and to carry on the deluſion, cheapens and pretends to purchaſe different articles. Their cargo chiefly conſiſts of handkerchiefs, ſilk and cotton ſtockings, remnants of old ſilk, &c. which being ſtolen, picked up in Rag Fair, or elſe bad of the kind, and therefore bought at a cheap rate, they impoſe frequently on the novice as foreign, and thereby extort from him treble the value. If inſpecting the cheat, he is tardy, and by his behaviour indicates an unwillingneſs to deal, they begin to bounce, and affect to wonder at his impudence in bringing them thus far to the loſs of their time, and perhaps a good cuſtomer, for nothing. If this prevails, they threaten, which generally forces the intimidated ſtranger to deal for ſomething. If he ſends for change, he ſeldom ſees his money again, and as they always lead him to intricate holes and alleys, can ſeldom get any redreſs. In ſhort, if they once trapan an ignorant perſon into their clutches, it is rare he eſcapes, without much coſt or vile abuſe.

Theſe being deſcribed, will be ſhunned by turning a deaf ear to their ſolicitations.

AN

ACCOUNT

OF

MOCK AUCTIONS.

AUCTIONS, or ſelling goods of any kind by advance to the higheſt bidder, are in general deluſive, and ſeldom anſwer the end of the purchaſer, as he frequently

quently obtains his commodity at a very exorbitant rate.

The credulity, vanity, and ambition of mankind prompted their institution, to subserve the purposes of those who make a trade of the folly of others. If the best are seldom free from devices, what must we say of those we are about to describe? A more palpable delusion prevails not in London, that seat of fraud. I term them Mock Auctions, because they are deceits throughout. Their advertisements set forth the sale of persons who never existed, and owners that never possessed such property. These auctioneers are generally fellows who have forsworn honour and modesty; and being reduced to a crisis of fortune, devise this base expedient for a living.

Having taken a petty shop, they bring together their stock of goods, which, for the most part, are paltry; they then employ three or four infamous puffers of each sex. These puffers are such as they find necessary to promote trade on two accounts, both affecting to purchase, and thereby stimulating strangers to bid, and also by advancing, preventing many commodities from going off under a certain stipulated sum.

Preparations thus made, up mounts Mr. Orator, and the cheat begins by putting up part of his stock.

He harangues, perhaps, on the excellency of a silver watch made by an eminent hand, and put up at the small rate of only two pounds ten shillings.

To carry on the device, and attract the notice of passengers, the watch is handed round the company, though consisting of puffers alone; one bids, another advances, and the business is carried on with great spirit.

When the bustle has brought in a few strangers, and they find a novice disposed to bid, they cautiously avoid dallying when a mouth is near the mark.

In like manner they proceed in other respects, and as their commodities are ever defective in some point or other, and they employ the meanest hirelings to delude the ignorant to bid their utmost value, and often much more, they cannot fail of deceiving all those, through inexperience, are allured to become purchasers at so fraudulent a market.

Many

Many novices and countrymen have thought they have bought bargains of this rabble; but time has soon convinced them of a palpable deluſion. If my country friends, in the courſe of a viſit to London, are diſpoſed to purchaſe any commodities it affords, I would adviſe them to repair to the fair tradeſman, who ſcorns to avail himſelf of their inexperience, and will treat them on the ſame terms as the moſt ſkilful in the articles for which they deal; then will they ſhun fraud, and enjoy a future ſatisfaction, in having expended their money on a valuable acquiſition.

THE

TRICKS

OF

INTELLIGENCE OFFICES.

THERE is not a more palpable fraud impoſed upon the town than that practiſed by moſt of theſe offices.

They are generally carried on by perſons wholly illiterate, or thoſe of ruined fortunes and characters, whoſe only recommendation is a tolerable coat, a powdered wig, and a conſummate effrontery.

Their windows are always filled with fictitious wants, in order to make a parade of buſineſs to draw in the unwary for intelligence.

On your entrance, the book is opened, your name inſerted, your ſhilling paid, and you become a candidate for a place of conſiderable profit, according to your capacity; or, if a maſter, ſtand entitled to a good ſervant. If you are deſirous of raiſing money on an

eſtate, or any kind of goods, they will help you to a coger, who ſhall advance the ready at a trifling intereſt and moderate premium: in ſhort, they will aſſiſt you in the diſpoſal of any incumbrance of eſtate or effects, in the moſt genteel and expeditious manner.

They live by bubbling maſters and ſervants, pretending to do that for you which they never deſigned, and promiſing that which they are certain they can never effect. Country people, for want of acquaintance in town, have often been made a prey by theſe voracious animals, after dancing attendance on them every day for ſeveral months together, making a thouſand applications in vain, and being fooled out of ſome pounds.

But theſe offices are attended with more deſtructive effects. They have often been the markets of the pimp, bawd, and procureſs, who have reſorted to them, to ſee what goods came in, and hear where a pretty country girl was to be found, by means of the Regiſter. It might with eaſe be proved that ſome of theſe gentry have been in fee with the pimping profeſſion, and that many innocent girls owe their ruin to their combined fraud.

Country people of neither ſex can with reaſon propoſe to themſelves any advantage from applying to thoſe offices, whereas they are liable, if connected with them, to be bubbled, cajoled, and trapanned.

THE

THE

CHEATS

OF

FORTUNE TELLERS.

THESE gentry, by dint of aſtrology, impiouſly pretend to preſcience or knowledge of future events. With reſpect to aſtronomical predictions, we have had abundant proofs of their verification; but every ſober thinking man muſt be convinced of the abſurdity, as well as preſumption of a ſhort-ſighted mortal's claiming a certain knowledge of what ſhall befall an individual in the courſe of a tranſitory and uncertain life.

Such is the credulity of mankind in general, that many live in this as well as in other countries, by abſurdly amuſing the curioſity of ignorant men and ſilly women.

In the countries, the myſterious art is profeſſed and practiſed by gypſies, and many have daily recourſe to their all-exploring faculty.

In town, the ſurprizing myſtery is arrogated by a few noted profeſſors, whoſe houſes are as much crouded on particular occaſions as a courtier's on a levee day.

Thither repair a crowd of deſponding ſwains, to be aſſured concerning the affections of their ſweet hearts; thither flock a train of youthful virgins to learn their future deſtiny; thither flies the loſer to recover darling property, and thither the fond mother to know the ſituation of an abſent child.

In ſhort, to theſe repoſitories of fate daily repair the credulous, the inquiſitive, the deſponding, and the doubtful.

On their entrance, they are ſhewn into a room ſet apart for the reception of the cuſtomers, as but one at

a time can be admitted into the *Sanctum Sanctorum*, where ſits this prodigy of ſcience. When you are admitted to an interview, you firſt compliment him with a preſent, which, if you deſire minute information, muſt be in proportion to the importance of the event, and your anxiety concerning it. With ſolemn aſpect he demands the ſubject matter of your enquiry; which told him, he pauſes ſome time, then aſks you many circumſtantial queſtions, and after another pauſe, reveals the important ſecret, and diſmiſſes the credulous enquirer with the air of a moſt profound philoſopher.

The minds of theſe perſons are, doubtleſs, affected according to the predictions of M. Infallible; which muſt certainly have an influence on their future conduct. Many have been ſo elated by aſſurance of future ſucceſs, that, grown inſolent in their ſtations of life, they have loſt the very means of living.

Others, depreſſed by ill-fated predictions, have ſunk into deſpair, and neglected the common concerns of their rank and ſtation.

As a proof of human credulity, I ſhall preſent the reader with a ſingular inſtance of dexterity practiſed with as ſingular ſucceſs in the black art.

A young gentleman falling in love with the daughter of a wealthy merchant, but being deprived of the conſummation of it, through the diſagreement of their reſpective parents, went on his travels, and among other places came to Hamburgh, where he happened to be in the company of a gentleman, who ſpeaking of his brother at London, ſaid he was lately married to the daughter of Mr. ——— a merchant in that city.

The gentleman hearing a name mentioned, which was the ſame with that of his former miſtreſs's father, enquired where the perſon, who was lately married, lived, and being certified of his name and place of abode, ſailed for England the firſt opportunity. On his arrival in London, he went to the houſe according to the directions given him at Hamburgh, and enquiring for the gentleman, found that he was in the country, and would not return that night. He then enquired for the lady (whom he well knew, though ſhe remembered not him, being much altered by the

curing

cutting off his hair and marks of the small-pox) and pretending to have letters of recommendation from her husband's brother at Hamburgh, desired to be entertained as a servant. The lady replied, that her husband being absent, she could not give him a decisive answer; but as he had a letter from her brother-in-law, he should be welcome to a night's lodging in the house.

He embraced her offer with much apparent chearfulness, and immediately entered the house. The lady pretended indisposition, was for going to bed, in order to hurry him away supperless, which he observing, desired a little beer. When the maid was gone to fetch it, he had leisure to look about, and espied, amongst other things, a cloth laid in an ample manner as if for some banquet, from whence concluding that this preparation could not be for the next day, but that some person was to come in her husband's absence to partake of the dainties, he determined to watch their motions. Now it proved according to his surmise, this entertainment being provided for the regale of a gallant who had made an assignation for that night.

He accordingly came at the appointed hour, and was received with marks of the most endearing respect. This caused the first lover to regret his hard fate; nevertheless, he resolved to know the event of the affair.

They had no sooner sat down to their regale, than a knocking was heard at the door, and the maid discovered it to be her master. This put them into such a consternation, that had she not been a woman of ready invention and extraordinary presence of mind, they must have been detected; but thrusting her spark, the provisions, table, bottles and all, into an adjoining closet, she betook herself to her couch with her prayer book in her hand.

Her husband entering, thought himself happy in a wife who was constantly at her prayers, and told her, after some little discourse, that he was going to Gravesend, to give orders about the lading of a ship, but had heard she had fallen down to the Nore, and coming off the water, he was hungry, and must have something for supper. His virtuous wife told him, that he being abroad she had prepared nothing.

The

The ſtranger now took an opportunity to ſhew himſelf, and being demanded by the maſter who he was; the lady informed him, that he was one who had letters of recommendation to be a ſervant from her brother-in-law at Humburgh. The old Don then aſked him his qualifications.

"I have," replied the other, "been bred a ſcholar, and taken ſome degrees at the Univerſity. I can write a good hand, and underſtand accounts well; beſides which, during my reſidence at Oxford, I ſpent ſome time in the ſtudy of magick, or the black art, for which I was expelled. I can perform ſomething wonderful, yet without danger, I can diſcover private enemies, reveal robberies, help right owners to goods ſtolen or loſt, and to ſhips becalmed procure a wind, that ſhall bring them to their deſired port."—"I wiſh then," ſaid the old gentleman, "you could procure me a ſupper to-night, for my appetite is very keen." With this wiſh he promiſed to comply, and the lady fearing the diſcovery of the intrigue, oppoſed it violently, till the ſham conjuror aſſured her, by a private ſign, that he would preſerve her honour inviolate; ſhe conſented, on condition that ſhe ſhould have nothing to terrify her.

Our magician then began his incantation—Maphorbus! Mephorbus! Mephorbus! thrice have I invoked thee my familiar, be thou now aſſiſtant to my deſires, ſupply whatever a hungry appetite requires.

After making the twelve ſigns on the Zodiac, and muttering ſome unintelligible jargon, he pauſed, and ſtood as if liſtening to an inviſible ſpeaker; then told them that they might fall to and eat heartily of the meat that was provided for them, which ſtood upon the table ready furniſhed in ſuch a cloſet. When the maſter of the houſe had appeaſed his hunger, he deſired to be informed by what means all this proviſion was brought into the cloſet, as he heard no noiſe. "Sir, (ſays the conjuror) 'twas done by a familiar that I have command of, and you ſhall ſee him if you pleaſe."—"By all means, (ſays the other) that I may thank him, for I would, according to the old proverb, *give the devil his due*; upon which, the ſtranger renewed his invoca-

invocations thus—Mephorbus! that lurkeſt here, put on human ſhape, appear viſible to our eyes, and come forth in the likeneſs of a fine well dreſſed gentleman, ſuch as may pleaſe this lady.

Upon this, the young gallant came forth, and the door being opened for him, he paſſed through the room making a bow, and went into the ſtreet.

Thus the pretended conjuror came off with applauſe on all ſides. The maſter of the houſe was obliged to him for procuring an elegant repaſt at a time he wanted it—the lady for getting rid of her gallant—and the gallant for ſuch a favourable opportunity of eſcaping from her huſband.

Whether this relation be true or fabulous, it is as well authenticated as the preſent faculty to which our modern fortune tellers pretend, notwithſtanding, thro the credulity and folly of mankind, ſuch infamous cheats are protected and encourged.

As a further detection of theſe vile impoſtors, I ſhall cite a particular inſtance, wherein their abſurdity appears moſt glaring.

There now lives in this town a famous wiſe man, who is a great pretender to the art of fortune-telling, and has acquired ſuch reputation among the lower claſs of people, that he has forty or fifty fools to attend him every morning; ſome women to know when they ſhall be married; ſome married women, whoſe huſbands are at ſea, or in foreign plantations, to know if he can give them any tidings concerning their ſtate and circumſtances; ſome perſons to know whether they ſhall be proſperous in their marriage, voyage, or buſineſs in hand, and others about ſtolen goods and the like. An ingenious married lady, having heard much of Mr. Tell-truth's name, reſolved to be determined whether his pretenſions were well founded, or his followers were fools. She accordingly applies to the Oracle, and on her approach to the chair of infallibility, told him, in a ſubmiſſive manner, that ſhe deſired to be informed when Providence would bleſs her with a huſband.—Having examined her phyſiognomy, the prophet told her the man was yet unknown to her, who would certainly marry her within a few weeks, by whom ſhe

ſhould

ſhould have three children, then bury him, and marry a ſecond time ſoon after, very much to her advantage as well as ſatisfaction, and ſhould live happily with him to a great age.

The lady then remonſtrating with the impoſtor on his fallacy, and declaring that ſhe had had a huſband nine years, he deſired to ſee her hand once more; upon a review of which he cried—"I was miſtaken, for I now find thou haſt a huſband, but he is ſuch a very ſmall one that I can with much difficulty diſcern his ſignification in thy palm." Happening to gueſs right in this particular, the lady burſt into laughter, and being well pleaſed with the cunning of the cheat, went away confirmed in her opinion, that there was nothing in his pretended ſkill but mere gueſs and ſubtilty.

A country gentleman, ſtrangely infatuated with an opinion of aſtrology, had recourſe to this famous planet Juggler, and reſolving to venture ſome money in the lottery, gave him a guinea to aſſign him a lucky hour for that purpoſe.

After the impoſtor had jumbled together a parcel of figures to amaze the queriſt, he fixed on a certain time, wherein he ſhould be fortunate. The gentleman, purſuant to the ſtar-groper's directions, bought a ticket, which coming up an hundred pounds, he preſented the old fox with ten guineas, and deſired he would mention another day in which he might again be fortunate.

The bait was greedily ſwallowed, and the day fixed on which the gentleman purchaſed ten tickets; but to his mortification, they all came up blanks; and his only recourſe was, to go back and curſe the philoſopher, and his miſguiding ſtars.

There lived a few years ago, in the county of Surry, a famous Aſtrologer, who, to deceive people, had ſeveral bells placed in a ſtudy above ſtairs, the ropes of which hung down the wall of a dark ſtair-caſe; one ſignifying loſt ſheep, another cloaths ſtolen off the hedge, another ſtrayed or ſtolen horſes, which were the chief things about which the country people repaired to him.

A butcher

A butcher having loſt ſome ſheep, went to the aſtrologer's houſe, and having acquainted the ſervant with the nature of his buſineſs, the ſheep bell was tinkled, upon which the Doctor came down, put on his fur cap, and conjuring countenance.

He immediately addreſſed himſelf to the butcher, with—How now, friend! I'll warrant you have loſt ſome ſheep, and you want me to give you tidings of them.—Yes, noble Doctor, (ſays the man.) Come, (ſays the Doctor) walk into my parlour, and I will endeavour to give you ſatisfaction. The butcher followed, and happened to have a dog with him, which crept unobſerved under one of the chairs: the ſervant, according to cuſtom, had dreſſed himſelf up in a bull's hide, waiting for his ſummons to appear. This given, he made his appearance, and the dog being of the true breed, ſeized the Doctor's aſſiſtant, and made him roar like the beaſt he repreſented. The conjurer riſing in a great paſſion, cried out, Take off your dog, you rogue, take off your dog. The butcher having diſcovered the cheat, replied—Not I, by my troth, Doctor, I know he's as good as ever run: let them fight fair, Doctor. If you'll venture your devil, I'll venture my dog. The Doctor, at length, was glad to pay the man for his ſheep, to prevent a further diſcovery of his notorious frauds.

In ſhort, a train of miſadventures have attended this diabolical cheat, and many live to rue their credulous regard to it.

I would therefore particularly admoniſh my country friends, to contemn ſuch arrogant pretenders to an attribute of the Deity; to baniſh all idle and groundleſs ſuggeſtions, and proſecuting the paths of honour and virtue, leave other concerns to an unerring Providence.

THE

THE

CHARACTER

OF

GOSSIPS.

THIS is the laſt of the pernicious characters we propoſed to diſplay to the view of our readers, as of injurious tendency to all who are influenced by them.

Though at firſt view theſe may appear harmleſs and inoffenſive, yet their diſpoſition muſt divert them from thoſe purſuits on which depends their moſt important intereſt.

Goſſips I conſider as referring to the female ſex, and would underſtand by the term, perſons who through habit or inclination, are addicted to perpetual chit-chat, and therefore always know more of their neighbour's concerns than their own.

Converſe with Goſſips always encourages a ſpirit of detraction, cheriſhes envy, and foments animoſities.

They are led by their practice to lye, neglect their duty, and ſquander their time. Which conſequence will inevitably render the rich deſpicable, and the poor deſtitute; and every conſiderate perſon knows, to what trying temptation penury reduces, when characters are ſtained, or reputation loſt.

Shun therefore all converſe with Goſſips, becauſe—— "Evil communications corrupt good manners."

FINIS.